



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

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Minutes of the October 18, 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 October 18, 2012, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:10 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 October 18, 2012 CAG Meeting:

John Bairstow	Concerned Citizen
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	LaFarge Corporation
Bob Chmielecki	Midwest Generation
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Dept. of Planning
Tim Drexler	USEPA
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon Society
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon Society
Diane Tecic	IDNR
Natalie Dutack	Waukegan Harbor CAG
Mitch Siegel	Concerned Citizen
Wayne Schimpff	Concerned Citizen
Sheila Sullivan	USEPA
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Bill Lebensorger	CLC Intern
Nicky Obenauf	Davey Tree

Additions to the Agenda

1. Salmon Unlimited Fishing Day report
2. Harbor Dredging Tours

Minutes -

- **June, 2012 minutes** - motion made by Bob Chmielewski to accept the June minutes as presented; Mitch Siegel seconded the motion. The motion was passed.
- **July, 2012 minutes** - motion made by Mitch Siegel to accept the July minutes as presented; John Ohl seconded the motion. The motion was passed.
- **September, 2012 minutes** - motion made by Paul Geiselhart to accept the September minutes as presented; Larry Brewer seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

UPDATES

USEPA

Please see update from Tim Drexler under ***Waukegan Harbor OMC Superfund Dredging***

IEPA

No report

City of Waukegan

No report.

CAG BUSINESS

Waukegan Harbor CAG – Audit Status

Our tax year is July 1st – June 30th. The audit is nearly finished. We are waiting for the Chicago Botanic Garden and College of Lake County invoices for their work completed by June 30, 2012.

USEPA Document Repository Update

The Waukegan Public Library Reference Document Repository Catalogue is now posted on the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group website. Many thanks to John Bairstow for all his hard work!

Nominations Committee Appointed

Executive Committee Elections are held in November 2012.

Appointed to the Nominating Committee were: Claudia Freeman, Mike Prusila, and Tom Chefalo. A slate of officers for the Ex. Committee will be presented at the November 2012 Waukegan Harbor CAG meeting.

Waukegan Harbor OMC Superfund Dredging

Update from Tim Drexler

The USEPA is happy to report that dredging started on September 26, 2012. Operations are running 24 hours a day, 5 days a week. They are currently in bypass mode, which means the sediment going into the consolidation facility is only about 15% solids. Quite a bit of harbor water is being pumped with the sediment, but this doesn't affect production – they are running close to 100%.

The Trommel Screen, equalization tank, and gravity thickener increase sediment content of the slurry, which then goes into the geo-tubes with less water and weeping. They have had to make quite a few tweaks to the Trommel Screen. It takes a little time to get equipment efficiently adjusted.

Currently, they are carrying 1,100-1,200 cubic yards of sediment per day thru the system. The target is to process the estimated 150,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment, with completion targeted for the end of July, 2013. To reach this goal the unit needs to be carry 1,350 cubic yards per day. They are working on getting back on schedule. These start-up issues are normal on systems of this size.

A color contour map showing sediment that needs to be removed was displayed. The project area is separated into 23 dredging management units. One dredge is currently operating in the harbor Entrance Channel, while the other is working in the Inner Harbor in the area of highest contaminated sediment thickness. Two of the 23 dredging units are complete. They have removed 15,000 cubic yards to date which means they are approximately 10% complete.

The last day of dredging for this season is November 10, 2012 - by which time they hope to have dredged 40,000 cubic yards. It will take about 10 days to completely demobilize the site. Trouble dredging caused by ice, and health and safety issues are more common after mid-November. It is neither cost-effective nor safe to go farther into the colder weather seasons. Remobilization is scheduled to begin on March 1, 2013, and dredging is scheduled to commence on April 1, 2013.

It was noted that the contractors can move the dredging barges to accommodate any traffic coming in or out of harbor – thus, harbor activity/use will not be impaired.

Questions:

Is it Hydraulic or mechanical dredging?

Hydraulic

Why are some areas on the map blank? Does it mean they are not touched?

Right, there is no dredging scheduled in those areas because they contain less than 1ppm of PCBs.

It was noted this map matches the bathymetric survey.

How are bathymetrics kept up to date?

Bathymetrics are updated once a week. The dredges have a GPS unit on board which provides staff with an on-screen colored graphic showing the dredging progress. Confirmation is made with the survey boat (bathymetric survey) once a week to make sure targets are met.

Did we have this technology in 1990?

Not really. It has changed – surveys were taken, but not with the precision we have now.

Does this technology cost more?

Yes

Does efficiency cut the cost?

Yes, starting on September 26th and working at 100% would have been unheard of in the past. The fact that we can finish at the end of July, 2013 shows that we are much more efficient.

Is the dredged water sampled?

Yes, daily.

Are solids tested?

As far as PCBs are concerned – No, they were already tested throughout the harbor. Density meters measure flow regularly as it comes into the system. This data is used to determine how the system works.

Will those reports be available?

Not yet, but we will be making them part of the record. We are collecting the data and evaluating it.

Will that be on a website?

Not yet.

There was some discussion on this point. Tim said they could make the data available online. Penny Bouchard suggested that **one** a lab report (an example), accompanied by a summary, be put on the website. It was agreed that providing all of the reports via the website would be too many pages of information to be useful.

Low Lake Levels – Climate Change

USACE Detroit District sent out an email notice stating Lake Michigan and Lake Huron water levels are down 18-20 inches this year. It was noted that by spring 2013 water levels may be below the all time recorded low of 1964 (26 inches).

The current lows are affecting both lake-carrier marine transporters and recreational boaters around the Great Lakes. In Waukegan Harbor the sand “speed bump” in the Entrance Channel by the swimming beach is a problem for harbor users, and will presumably get worse as water levels decrease. The current dredging has removed the problem for this season; however, the sand blows over from the swimming beach into the Entrance Channel daily and the problem will soon reemerge.

Regarding this issue, it was asked if the USEPA could get funding to dredge deeper during the current dredge. Tim Drexler, USEPA Superfund Project Manager, said the facility has limited capacity and the OMC Plant 2 dredging facilities can only handle and sequester the sediment estimated for their current project. The US Army Corps of Engineers will begin the Outer Harbor dredging at the end of July or August in 2013.

Susie Schreiber pointed out that once the OMC work is done and the Harbor is declared clean, maintenance dredging can begin again if further funding can be found. We haven’t been able to do maintenance dredging since 1970 because of the PCB contamination.

Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern (AOC) BUI Impairment Delisting Document Review & Management Plan – Review and Discussion

Presented by Diane Tecic

At the September meeting the IDNR presented the Waukegan Harbor AOC Wildlife Habitat Management Plan. The plan is one of the requirements for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) in the Waukegan Harbor AOC. Following the meeting some changes and corrections were made to the document in discussions with the Waukegan Harbor CAG. The IDNR requested the new draft be posted on the Waukegan Harbor CAG website for review. Any additional comments would be appreciated.

In addition to the Habitat Management Plan the USEPA also requires a document that requests the removal of the BUI (*Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan Proposed Removal*)

Recommendation for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment (Habitat Loss BUI) October, 2012). IDNR is following the delisting targets from the 2008 document (*Delisting Targets for the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern: Final Report*) which requires identifying the root causes of the BUI and establishing a program of restoration activities to address each. The recommendation must also provide evidence showing that the beneficial use is no longer impaired, or is [on a set pathway where the use in the AOC is similar to other “like habitats” in NON AOC areas](#).

IDNR is requesting a letter of support from the Waukegan Harbor CAG for the removal of the Habitat BUI, and presented the following points from the *Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan Proposed Removal Recommendation for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment (Habitat Loss BUI) October, 2012*, supporting that decision:

- **The Waukegan Harbor AOC habitat has increased 50%** - the sand has built-up since 1985; there is more land and habitat now than we had in 1980 when Habitat BUI was placed on the Waukegan Harbor AOC.
- **The IDNR has a Lake Michigan coastal program in place now** - The Waukegan Harbor AOC is a high focus area for their new program. In addition to funding from NOAA, the INDR has staff to work on the Lake Michigan Coastal Program, which is a new-resource for the Waukegan Harbor AOC.
- **The IDNR now has other grants and funds that can support the Waukegan Harbor CAG and CAG activities and monitoring.**
- **They have identified funding for monitoring of specific areas in the Waukegan Harbor AOC.**
- **The majority of contaminants in Waukegan Harbor AOC will have been cleaned by mid-summer of 2013.**
- **The cooperation of the Waukegan Harbor CAG, IDNR, IEPA, USEPA, GLENPO, USACE and other parties** – All of these groups working together have made restoration and remediation compatible with the area’s aquatic and land habitat. Cooperative work like this helps to prevent long term problems.
- **The Waukegan Harbor 2010 GLRI Grant is accomplishing a great deal of habitat mapping, monitoring and invasive species removal.**
- **The FANTASTIC QUALITY OF HABITAT** in the Waukegan Harbor AOC and Extended AOC makes a good case for BUI removal.
- **Continued monitoring and gathering of baseline data will help to make sure all projects stay on the right trajectory.** Currently monitoring has revealed that the Dunal area has a Floristic Quality Inventory (FQI) of over 60 and there are 214 bird species (13 of which are state listed and 1 that is federally endangered) using the site. This quality is much higher than similar non-AOC sites.

Based on these factors, the IDNR believes the Habitat BUI should be removed, and noted continued improvements are scheduled. The proposed BUI removal is contingent on fact that all environmental and maintenance dredging continues, the Waukegan Harbor 2010 GLRI Grant is fully completed, and the habitat management plan for Extended AOC is completed in the next year.

The IDNR working to get a contract in place with Dr. Julie Kinzelman. who conducts beach assessments (beach sanitary surveys) for the City of Racine, Wisconsin. Dr. Kinzelman will be asked to present ideas on beach health improvements for the Waukegan Swimming Beach and dunal areas where appropriate.

Questions Followed:

Please comment on the Fish Consumption BUI and testing?

The Fish Consumption BUI is being considered separately; it is contingent on completion of the dredging; and is on a longer timeline. Currently, the fish contaminant levels in the harbor are equal to Lake Michigan Standards for most fish, BUT not all fish in the harbor. The delisting criteria for fish requires that ALL FISH meet Lake Michigan standards in order to remove the Fish Consumption BUI. Two species of fish, sunfish and white sucker, are still on the Waukegan Harbor Fish Consumption Advisory. Fish habitat (where fish are collected for testing) is the calm fishable area. Five to six species were collected this year for testing from this area, but as it is not currently a good habitat, and many of the fish there are usually transient, they won't reflect the conditions of harbor.

How long does it take for benthos to return?

It could take a while – It could take a while. Benthos, zooplankton and phytoplankton are all separate BUIs that are dependent on the harbor dredging. Pre-dredge sampling was completed for all, as well as fish in spring-summer, 2012. Sampling will be done again, most likely in 2014 to compare to the pre-dredge sampling. Sampling will continue as needed to remove those BUIs.

If the lab conducting the fish testing is slow, and there is funding, is there an opportunity to take the fish samples to a private lab?

Yes. Currently the IDNR is going with IEPA lab because they have done it before, and they had funding for it.

Is there funding to collect species privately in case the IDNR is not getting them? Funding is available, but IDNR prefers to use our staff to sample to assure proper methodology and continuity in sampling protocols.

Is Dr. Kinzelman a biologist?

Dr. Kinzelman has a Ph.D. in public health microbiology from the University of Surrey (UK), a M.S. in clinical laboratory sciences from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, and degrees in medical technology and biology from the University of Wisconsin – Parkside.

Harbor Dredging Tours

The Waukegan Harbor CAG and the USEPA are developing an education and outreach program that offers area students a tour of the actual harbor dredging operation and the OMC Plant 2 Superfund Site treatment facility. This is an opportunity for the next generation to see and learn about what happened on the Waukegan lakefront during the 20th century. The College of Lake County, Lake Forest College, St. Martin de Porres High School, Waukegan and Zion Benton High Schools have all been identified as possible interested parties.

The first part of the tour will be an hour long classroom session overviewing the AOC history; the environmental impact on the lakefront; the efforts of a community to come back after losing a strong industrial base; and a detailed explanation of the operation of the USEPA selected cleanup remedy. The second part is an actual site tour of the OMC Plant 2 treatment facility.

College of Lake County Internship Experience Report- Bill Lebensorger

The majority of Bill's work has been with Margo Milde, completing floristic transects through the GLRI grant site areas in Bowen Park, and the Waukegan dunes. Bill described a transect as a measurement of plant quality, frequency, and percent cover of the plant for a specific area. They figure a line through a site anywhere from 30-200 meters long. Every 2 meters a .5 x .5 meter square is dropped and a floristic inventory taken. This gives a feel for what type of plants are in area. Transects are compared before and after invasive species removal to show success of restoration work.

Plant guides (Swink and Wilhelm), using a dichotomous key, are employed to identify the plants in the transect area. This has given him a lot of experience with dichotomous keys, and helped with learning the ravine and dunal community plants. Currently, the FQI is over 70 at Bowen, and over 60 in the dunes. He noted: "In class you learn that if you get to 40 for an FQI, you have a pretty high quality area". "The internship is solidifying and extending what I learned in class."-Working with Margo has given him a good understanding of the role of field botanist.

He also learned a lot in meetings with the USEPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant AOC Review team and the United States General Accounting Office team who came on site to inspect the work we are doing. Overall the internship has been a great experience and he appreciates the opportunity.

Plants of Concern (POC) – Bowen Park and Waukegan Dunal Area

The CLC long-term Interns, Bill Lebensorger and Kate Johnson, continue to work with the Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern program. Bill has conducted the transects with Margo Milde and Kate works with Rachel Goad by identifying and logging the whole list of POCs found in the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern. Rachael then loads the information into the area-wide regional Plants of Concern database maintained by the Chicago Botanical Garden. These interns will be good resources for our contractors, the Davey Resource Group and Conservation Land Stewardship.

Introduction of Waukegan Dunal Area Contractor

The Davey Resource Group is our Dunal Area Contractor. A short overview of the company and the work they plan to do was presented by Nicky Obenauf. The Davey Resource Group is a part of Davey Tree Expert Co. specializing in natural restoration projects, as well as tree inventories. Nicky has been in area since 1995, first working with the Lake County Forest Preserve District, and then with-Landkeepers LLC for 7 years. Landkeepers LLC was recently acquired by the Davey-Resource Group. Nicky will be conducting all burns.

Caretakers of the Environment International USA

Wayne Schimpff, one of the founders of Caretakers of the Environment International USA, overviewed their program and 2013 international conference. Caretakers will hold their next World Conference in Chicago (hosted by North Park University), July 1-7, 2013. Next summer's theme is designing sustainable natural communities in urban areas.

The goal of the program is to create a network of students and teachers around the globe willing to teach, share, and implement environmental change. High School students and teachers get involved by choosing and presenting on an environmental topic in an international forum. They develop skills relating to partnership building so they can go back and make changes in their local ecosystems.

The Waukegan Harbor CAG has been asked to be a field trip destination for the conference. It is proposed that the students will travel up from Chicago to Bowen Park and lakefront sites, where they can learn about our GLRI projects. Thirty countries are represented, with 3 students and 4 teachers

from each. The Waukegan Harbor CAG will further explore this request, and place it on the November agenda for open discussion.

Caretakers, USA is also looking for corporate support to help transport the students. For more questions, contact Wayne Schimpff.

Website

There are new postings on our website. The Swallow project will be up in the next couple weeks. Pictures and write-ups on this project may also be found on the Geographic Society of Chicago website.

Bowen Park

Fall and winter work with Conservation Land Stewardship is about to commence as the days get cooler and conditions are appropriate for restoration work. We will be meeting with CLS Project Manager, Josh Arrigoni, and the Waukegan Park District next week to go over the fall winter work schedule and burning.

Burn Training

There is a section in the grant for Burn Training. We will be setting up a Prescribed Burn training session at Bowen Park. The hope is to have local people trained to assist with burn activities.

Chicago Wilderness Conference

The Chicago Wilderness Congress is on November 15th, 2012, and will be held on the University of Illinois – Chicago Circle campus. The final day to register is November 6, 2012. The Waukegan Harbor CAG has offered to sponsor College of Lake County students (the student fee is \$20.00. Our GLRI education funding line will cover the student registration costs.

If anyone is interested they should-go to the Chicago Wilderness website for more information.

OLD BUSINESS

Alliance for the Great Lakes

The Lake-Michigan Ecosystem Management Program has changed their name to the Lake Michigan Coastal Advisory Group (CAG). This is another reason why we need to use our full name rather than acronyms when referring to the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group.

The Alliance for the Great Lakes, working with a Chicago Wilderness Rapid Assessment Team recently surveyed Yeoman Park. The goal was to develop a ravine rapid assessment template. The survey went well.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Recycling Event

The Waukegan Park District and SWALCO are holding a recycling event for electronics, and computer related items on November 17, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. in Belvidere Park. More information is on the website.

Hidden World of Wolves and Coyotes Lecture

November 8, 2012 7:00 – 9:00 pm – at Greenbelt Cultural Center in North Chicago, Illinois.

Freshwater Future

Freshwater Future, a granting unit on Great Lakes has created a Climate Change Tool Kit. Our copy is available the Waukegan Harbor CAG office located in the Jack Benny Center for anyone who is interested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Salmon Unlimited

125 kids came out to the Salmon Unlimited Fishing Day. The winning fish was an 8 lb. Chinook salmon caught by a 13 year old. The weather was great and everyone had fun.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn 8:31 p.m. made by Larry Brewer, Bob Chmielecki seconded-the motion. 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 IL House & Senate.

<http://www.glc.org>
<http://www.binational.net>

Great Lakes Commission.
Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy – Annual Progress Report
Great Lakes Water Levels

<http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/pubs/brochures/wlevels/wlevels.html>
<http://www.cciw.solec>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec>

State of the Great Lakes – SOLEC full report

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

The Lake Michigan Forum
Lake Michigan Lake Wide Management Plan (LaMP 2000)
Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council
Lake Michigan Sensitive Areas
Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study
Lake Michigan Mass Balance
Zebra Mussels in Southwestern Lake Michigan

<http://www.gvsu.edu/wri>
<http://www.epa.gov/OST/GLI/glimixqa.html>

Annis Water Resources Institute
A document on Bioaccumulative Chemicals of Concern (BCCs)

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

USEPA WEB SITE

Go the EPA Home site at *epa.gov*
Select *Illinois* from the map. It will go to an Illinois page.
Then select *Outboard Marine Corp Superfund Site* in the *EPA in Illinois* section.
Addition information may be reached by the top right hand box labeled Site Information.
Select *NPL Fact Sheet*. At the bottom you can click on *Site Profile Info* and it will take you to Superfund.

The Superfund Site Progress Profile contains the following additional information on the Superfund sites:

The site, contamination, cleanup progress summary, cleanup impact summary, land re-use, post-construction, five year review and community involvement.

For Area of Concern Information:

Go the EPA Home site at *epa.gov*
Select *Illinois* from the map. It will go to an Illinois page.
Select *Great Lakes Area of Concern* in the *EPA in Illinois* section.
Choose *Waukegan Harbor* for AOC information.

CAG MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Waukegan Charter Boat Association
Waukegan Main Street
Waukegan Lakefront Development Corporation
Waukegan Park District
Waukegan Port District
Waukegan Yacht Club

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