



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

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Minutes of the November 15, 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 November, 2012, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:00 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 November 15, 2012 CAG Meeting:

Duane Ambroz	IDNR
John Bairstow	Concerned Citizen
C. Todd Binning	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	LaFarge Corporation
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Bob Chmielecki	Midwest Generation
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Gieselhart	Lake County Audubon
Lisa May	Concerned Citizen – City of Waukegan
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Kathy Papp	Lake County Health Department
Mike Prusila	Lake County Stormwater Management
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Jon Shabica	Concerned Citizens
Mitch Siegel	Concerned Citizen
Jerry Sullivan	Concerned Citizen
Tim Drexler	US EPA

GUESTS:

Mike DeNinno	Concerned Citizen
Rich Keller	Lake County Grading
Elisabeth Martin	College of Lake County

AGENDA

There were no additions made to the agenda.

MINUTES

The October, 2012 minutes need more revision. They will be sent out before the next meeting.

The USEPA and LaFarge thanked Penny Bouchard for creating the dredging update report.

UPDATES

USEPA – Penny Bouchard for Mike Joyce

Johns Manville

Remedial Project Manager Matt Ohl says that JM has submitted the 30% design for the closure of the industrial canal, pumping lagoon and settling basin. USEPA and Illinois EPA are now in the process of reviewing it. The Action Memorandum for the Southwestern Site Areas removal (this is the document that authorizes the work) is now going through final review and agency management sign-off. The Action Memo is expected to be issued by the end of this month (November). However, the actual removal work will not begin until next year. The starting date will depend on the weather.

North Shore Gas former manufactured gas plant sites

South Plant site:

The draft remedial investigation (RI) report for the South Plant site is expected to be ready for review in December of this year. Additional monitoring for sediment contamination and vapor intrusion will continue for the next quarter or two.

North Plant site:

The work plan for the removal action at the North Plant site was approved in October and field work will likely begin late this year or early next year. Remedial Investigation work for the entire site is expected to begin in the next few months, weather permitting.

Yeoman Creek Landfill:

No report.

IDNR – Duane Ambroz

Illinois Beach State Park Burn

The burn was conducted as part of the normal burn regimen for the North Unit of the Park. Burning during the drought period allowed for the burning off of more cattail duff and exposed more of the native seedbank. This, in conjunction with work associated with the GLRI grant, will reduce cattail monocultures and restore native marsh habitats at Illinois Beach.

IDNR/IEPA – Susie Schreiber

Diane Tecic, IDNR reports that the fish samples taken from the harbor during the summer are currently being tested by IEPA.

City of Waukegan

No updates were presented at this meeting.

CAG BUSINESS

Waukegan Harbor OMC Superfund Dredging – Susie Schreiber

Dredging has ended for the season. 42,533 cubic yards of material that filled 20 geo-tubes was removed from the entrance channel. It is hoped that the site mobilization for the continued dredging will begin again in March, and should be done by August, 2013. When completed, a total of 150,000 cubic yards of material is expected to be removed from the harbor.

OMC Site updates – Tim Drexler

The remedial design for the clean-up of the area west of the old diecast building site is in process.

10,000 cubic yards of material will be excavated from an area east of the former Triax building. This will begin in January and is expected to be finished in May. A small concrete pad will also be removed from the site. This will complete work on the east side of the OMC Plant 2 site.

Hurricane Sandy – Susie Schreiber

The hurricane had a significant impact on harbors on the lower end of Lake Michigan. The Waukegan Outer Harbor was plugged by sand washed into it because of the high surf associated with strong north winds caused by the storm. The outer harbor is now about 15 feet deep. All the harbors from Waukegan to St. Joseph, MI have been closed due to the storm.

There is a push to develop an engineered solution to the problem that would direct the sand carried by the littoral drift out to the open lake instead of into the outer harbor. It is in an exploratory phase. The City of Waukegan, the Waukegan Port District and the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group would like to work with industries that use the harbor to develop a sand management program. One possibility is the removal of sand from the beach area before it ends up in the harbor. There is no identified source of funds to support this activity. All funding options need to be explored, including the GLRI Program, and assistance from the US Army Corp. of Engineers.

Fresh Water Future – Susie Schreiber

Freshwater Future included an article in its *Freshwater Voices* newsletter titled "Platinum Bucket Day Arrives for Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern". The article described the September 6th gathering of citizens, statesmen, scientists, government officials and others at the Waukegan Yacht Club who came together to celebrate the beginning of the final environmental dredge of Waukegan Harbor. It also described Freshwater Future's important contributions to making the final dredge possible, and its support of habitat research in the dunal areas adjacent to the harbor.

Harbor Tours – Paul Gieselhart

In partnership with the USEPA, two harbor tours, which included groups from College of Lake County and Lake Forest College, were conducted in October. The tours began with a one hour presentation at Bowen Park followed by a tour of the dredging facility. Tim Drexler from the USEPA and employees from CH2M Hill staffed the tours. Five additional groups will tour the harbor beginning in April 2013.

College of Lake County New Interns Hired – Susie Schreiber

As part of the GLRI grant CLC hired three interns for 80 hours each. They will be working on four projects:

- 1) Cataloging maps of the area – a continuation the work of begun by the Cool Summer Learning Experience students. The project also includes organization of our news clipping file.
- 2) Establishment of a bird banding site in both Bowen Park and on the dunes for the coming migratory season.
- 3) Arrangements for cleaning and storing of seeds that have been will be collected locally from native plants in Bowen Park and on the dunes by trained volunteers and interns.
- 4) GPS location of all trails in Bowen Park, and the paths through the dunes, plus the puddles located in the parking lots off Seahorse Drive.

All of the interns will be trained to use the GPS unit and to assist with conducting controlled burns.

Care Takers of the Environment International – Susie Schreiber for Wayne Schimpff

Lack of corporate sponsorship has led to the canceling of the conference but some groups may still come to Chicago.

Waukegan Junior Fleet – Susie Schreiber

Educational opportunities under development

The Cool Learning Experience and the Waukegan Junior Fleet will work together on the Clean Harbor Initiatives of the Lake Michigan Forum.

Bowen Park – Susie Schreiber

Fall Burns and Burn Training

Conservation Land Management would prefer to conduct spring burns because they believe they are more effective. However, the Waukegan Park District prefers the burns be done in the fall because they believe burning in the fall/winter is less disruptive to the patrons of the park. Conservation Land Management will be using the Illinois burn protocol and will work with the Waukegan Park District to train interns and local volunteers on how to conduct controlled burns.

Seed Collection and Cleaning – Susie Schreiber

During the past season some local native plant seeds were collected in Bowen Park and on the dunes. Planting will occur during the winter season.

IDNR Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Delisting Document Review and Waukegan AOC Habitat Management Plan – Susie Schreiber

Discussion on IDNR letter of request to remove the Habitat Loss BUI

The Habitat Loss BUI Delisting Document and Habitat Management Plan will be posted on the CAG website. The IDNR worked very closely with the Waukegan Harbor CAG to develop this document over the past three months. Comments should be directed to the Waukegan Harbor CAG.

The IDNR has asked the Waukegan Harbor CAG to provide a letter of support for the delisting of the Habitat Loss BUI. The CAG was asked to send the letter even though the GLRI site restoration projects are still ongoing, and the harbor dredging is not completed. The IDNR rationale is that the dunal habitat area is currently equal to, or better than, like dunal areas on Illinois' Lake Michigan shoreline based on the results of the extensive species monitoring and ecosystem mapping currently underway in the GLRI grant. It was noted that there will be post work monitoring of all the sites after the restoration work is completed.

Showing progress in delisting BUIs will help to show the US Congress that positive results are definitely forthcoming with the continued funding of the GLRI program.

Web Site Communications Committee Projects Update and Review of photos from Waukegan Historical Society – Susie Schreiber/John Baristow

During the previous week several maps were selected to be displayed on the CAG web site. Tonight the CAG meeting attendees were asked to select a set of photos from a group of photos collected and organized by John Baristow. These photos will also be displayed on the web site, signage at Bowen Park and at the lakefront. The maps and photos will help to tell the story of the harbor, lakefront and park. At the meeting, the attendees selected photos numbered 1189, 1585, 2182, 3771A, 4147 and 4255.

Nominations Committee – Slate of officers for Executive Committee

All the current Executive Committee members have confirmed that they would be pleased to serve again.

Mitch Siegel moved to allow that the current committee officers serve until January. The motion was seconded and passed by those in attendance at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Question regarding the CAG web site and harbor financial expenditures

Susie received a request for a summary of the web site and harbor financial expenditures.

Susie reported that the CAG currently has a web site and that a RFP to replace the site is not necessary. She also restated/reviewed the CAG GLRI grant allocations per categories.

There was a question about the type of financial information the USEPA makes available on its web site. It can release information about its expenditures, but it does not publically release information about its subcontractor's expenditures including hourly rates of pay for its employees and any information that would be considered proprietary. It also doesn't release information about the expenditures of the Principally Responsible Parties (PRPs).

NEW BUSINESS

Community Recycling Event

The Waukegan Park District and SWALCO will be holding a Community Recycling Event on November 17, 2012 between 10 am and 2 pm at Belvidere Park. The CAG will provide a demonstration of the Enviroscape with assistance of students from the Cool Learning Experience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements

ADJOURNMENT

Jerry Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded, and 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 Planning, Building and Development Dept.
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

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.