



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the January 17, 2013, Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group 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 January, 2013, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chair, Susie Schreiber.

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

Attendance at the January 17, 2013 CAG Meeting:

Duane Ambroz	IDNR
John Bairstow	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	LaFarge Corporation
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Bob Chimeleski	Midwest Generation
Natalie Dutack	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Trey Jackson	National Gypsum
Steve Jansen	Geographic Society of Chicago
Mike Joyce	USEPA
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Bill Lebensorger	CLC Intern
Brian O'Dell	Waukegan Port District
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Susan Olavarria	Midwest Generation
Jamie O'Meara	Waukegan Port District
Christine Peters	Waukegan Port District
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Jon Shabica	Concerned Citizen
Amy Strege	City of Waukegan
Mary Urban	College of Lake County
Barbara Waller	Concerned Citizen
Kevin Wermeling	Midwest Generation
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen
Jeffrey Zuercher	USACE

GUESTS:

John Barry	Technical Marine
Kelsey Druce	Concerned Citizen
Kevin Holly	Foss Park District
Jen O'Connor	Lake Forest College
Diane Peterson	Concerned Citizen
Violet Ricker	Waukegan Main Street
Blake Russo-Nixon	Concerned Citizen
Tom Thomas	T.J. Thomas Assoc. – Waukegan Port District
Bill Vignocchi	John Keno & Company

AGENDA

There were no additions made to the agenda.

MINUTES

Oct. 2012 Draft minutes - It was noted that John Bairstow's name needs to be added to the attendee list. With that correction, Larry Brewer made a motion to pass. The motion was seconded and carried.

Nov. 2012 Draft minutes – No additions or corrections were made. A motion to accept was made by Paul Gieselhart. It was second by John Bairstow and carried.

UPDATES

USEPA – Presented by Mike Joyce

Johns Manville:

The USEPA signed the Action Memorandum for the Southwestern Site Area removal on November 30, 2013. The USEPA is also reviewing the revised 30% design for the remediation of the Industrial Canal, Pumping Lagoon, and Collection Basin.

Questions:

What is status of design review? The design review is at 30%. The next phase will be for a 70% design.

Does IEPA have copy? The IEPA does have a copy. The Waukegan Harbor CAG does not have a copy.

North Shore Gas - former manufactured gas plant sites:

South Plant – The USEPA received the first draft of the Remedial Investigation report on 12/20/12 and is in the process of reviewing the document. The Agency plans to generate comments on this draft report by the end of February 2013.

North Plant – North Shore Gas is continuing to secure access agreements with the railroad and other nearby property owners prior to conducting Remedial-Investigation field work concerning the entire North Plant site later this year.

Meanwhile, a time-critical removal action, to remediate sources of high contamination on parts of the site, is still planned. The USEPA is now finalizing the necessary paperwork to implement this removal work later this year.

Yeoman Creek Landfill:

The USEPA is working with the Principle Responsible Parties (PRP) to address the methane gas that continues to migrate beyond the landfill boundary. The secondary landfill gas collection system and a perimeter gas collection system have reduced a small amount of the migrating gas. However, the systems have not been able to address most of the gas migrating off-site, to the property of the nearby Terrace Nursing Home.

Currently the overall 24/7 vacuum system at the landfill is operational and appears to address any urgent concerns that have been identified by the USEPA. The PRPs will continue to develop a more permanent solution by addressing the source of the methane. The USEPA will work closely with the PRPs to move forward with identification and determination of the permanent solution.

The USEPA has funded Skeo Solutions, an USEPA contractor, to develop a reuse assessment for the site. Skeo Solutions is finalizing a draft report to be submitted to the Yeoman Creek Superfund Site Stakeholders within a few weeks. This assessment will be used by USEPA Region 5, the City of Waukegan, the Waukegan School Board, and the other members of the PRP Group to evaluate **solar reuse options** for the Yeoman Landfill site that are compatible with the site's remedy.

Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC):

Final contaminated soil excavation for the Plant 2 Operable Unit 4, with the exception of the Old Die Cast/Utilities Area, is planned to begin in March and last until early summer.

Contracting for the creation of a remedial design for the Old Die Cast/Utilities area is now underway. It could take much of this year to complete the remedial design.

Mobilization for the second harbor dredging season (Operable Unit 1) is planned for March. April 1st is the target date to begin harbor dredging. Completion is scheduled for August, 2013.

Planning is underway for the placement of sediment dredged by the US Army Corps of Engineers from the Outer Harbor area of the Federal Channel-not part of the Superfund clean-up. These sediments would be placed on the Waukegan Coke Plant site (Operating Unit 2) late this summer, at the conclusion of Superfund dredging.

A second round of vapor intrusion sampling in the area south of the Plant 2 site is planned for March of this year.

IDNR

The IDNR has received the preliminary fish testing results. They will have written a report in 4-6 weeks, which shall be reviewed by IEPA and the Illinois Department of Health.

City of Waukegan

The City of Waukegan has hired Shabica & Associates, Inc. to do bathymetric research for dredging activities in the Approach Channel. They are hoping to have the results of this research as early as April of this year, so they can move on it quickly.

CAG BUSINESS

Big Belly solar receptacles

Five Big Belly trash receptacle units are now in place on the lakefront along Sea Horse Drive – one unit needs to be adjusted for placement. The IDNR purchased them for the City of Waukegan. The City put in them place, in late fall 2012. We look forward to their use.

Great Lakes Threats map available on line

The map is available online and shows the highest level of threats to the Great Lakes.

<http://phys.org/news/2012-12-environmental-threat-highlights-great-lakes.html>

Lower Lake Michigan – Jon Shabica – Shabica & Associates, Inc.

In Waukegan there has been an accumulation of excess sand affecting the harbor. 1,150 feet of beach have accumulated since 1939. More recently, sand accumulation and deposition have created a plug in the Outer Harbor and Approach Channel of the Federal Harbor.

Shabica & Associates, Inc. are working with City of Waukegan in a partnership approach with the Waukegan Port Authority, Waukegan Harbor CAG, the USEPA, the harbor industries and other interested parties, to find solutions to these continual sand blockages. They are also looking to help expedite some of the work done to date. All data will be shared between the partners. Here is what we know right now:

- Waukegan has a sand abundance, while other communities along the Illinois lake shore have too little sand.
- Historically, lake high and lows have been cyclical, but we are outside the records right now.
- Storm damage is more extreme at these low lake levels.
- Sand is coming from north and moving south – that is the only thing that is predictable.
- There is a Regional sand management plan. Shabica & Associates are looking at what the best options are and how to implement it. The project is in fact finding mode, but they are fast tracking it - from a water depth standpoint, the harbor is filling in.
- The technology for bathymetric profiles has gotten so good that we are looking at doing **live** lake bed mapping! This is good news because navigational charts are void right now as we have passed the all-time record low for Lake Michigan water levels.
- Susie Schreiber also reminded us that this sand mass has been around for 3,000 years. It is about 1 mile wide, so it's not going away.

Jon Shabica stated that if they run a boat on a more regular basis for bathymetric surveys (i.e. whenever they have a need), they can build a predictable model. They also want to produce an animation to show how the sand is moving. This provides us with the “live model” which would give the data more validity than a snapshot picture. The cost of the study is about \$75,000. They are meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), who have a similar plan. However, the USACE study is spaced over 6 years and costs half a million dollars. Jon says we don’t have that long. Currently they are exploring what options and resources are available, and are working with local industry to see what is at risk (i.e. Businesses closing if the Harbor is not maintained).

Question / Answer:

Are you working with Waukegan now? Yes. We also have a proposal with other local governments. We are trying to streamline the permitting and approval process for all this.

Foss Park District – Kevin Holly, Ex. Director

North Chicago is one of the local governments working with Shabica & Associates, Inc. on their shoreline issues. Contrary to the City of Waukegan, their problem stems from a *lack* of sand. Foss Park District is in the Extended Area of Concern.

North Chicago currently has 1600 feet of shoreline, which is not safe (rocky and rift currents) or sustainable. Their citizens can’t participate in education or recreational opportunities at their beach. They have had a bathymetric survey conducted and are aggressively pursuing remediation, design plans, permits, and supplemental funding.

Foss Park District has an idea of what they want the area to look like, and have located an easy access point for remediation work and eventual public access. That helps minimize cost. Kevin said they would be happy to take some of Waukegan’s sand!

Question / Answer:

What about the non-contact cooling waters that come from Abbott Labs? Currently there are 5-15 million gallons per day or more coming out and if they ramp down that will affect sand accumulation. Part of the plan is to make a buffer area on the north side which will also protect/prevent access to Abbott Labs. They are aware of the changes that will occur if Abbott shuts down the process, and it would be addressed in potential plans.

Waukegan Harbor - Outer Harbor Dredging – Jeffrey K. Zuercher, P.E – USACE Project Manager

There are three sections to the harbor: the Approach Channel, Outer Harbor, and Inner Harbor (where the superfund work is). There is a map attached to the minutes that shows these locations. The Outer Harbor has not been dredged in 30 years. There are now plans to dredge, but there is **fine grained material** mixed with the sand in the “hump”, and they cannot just dredge it and dump back into lake. The USACE completed a study and found that it is clean material which can be used for upland placement. There are many areas where it can be used, but it has been decided that it will go to the Coke Plant site.

This won’t cost as much – the dredged material can be unloaded and moved around the site as needed. A berm will be constructed to keep material in – the material will be placed inside the berm, where bulldozers can then move it. The sediment will dewater on site naturally.

The USEPA – Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) is working with the USACE on the funding portion of this project. There are already good access roads on the Coke site so they won’t need to

spend money building from scratch. USACE hopes to finish up the plans over the next 6 months, with a goal of a September 2013 contract, and Spring 2014 start.

Susie Schreiber commented that the USEPA has done good job with CHM2Hill. Funding is the only thing holding up starting this year.

Questions / Answers:

- *Is there any idea what the total project cost might be?* This is a 1-5 million dollar contract. They are talking about 100,000 cubic yards of sediment.
- *Is funding prioritized?* It is a TOP priority for USACE and USEPA. They are now working with lawyers, which takes time. A review still has to be done.
- *Would congressional interest speed things up?* Not necessarily, but it doesn't hurt. The Waukegan Harbor CAG will continue to work with our Congressional Representatives.
- *What can we do to make it safe for swimmers in areas where rebar is causing a hazard?* USACE will have a crew coming up in the next 3 weeks to cut them down. They will do their best for those pieces in water, and will completely remove all those on deck.
- *What about the "potholes"?* It is on their list to repair.
- *How can we help get the USACE money to get this done - Can we tax industry more?* Amy Strege doesn't think so - that would make relationships harder. Susie Schreiber reminds us that we want to work cooperatively together. She thinks there are sources to work with USACE.

Harbor Dredging Tours – Spring and Summer 2013

The Waukegan Yacht Club and Waukegan Main Street would like a Harbor tour. Green Town Waukegan may be interested as well. In the next 6 weeks we want to make sure we reach any people/organizations interested in seeing the site. In addition, on May 22, 2013, 60-70 engineers from the Industrial Water, Waste, and Sewage Group will take the tour.

Bowen Park

As of this week clearing work is mostly complete in Priority Areas 3 and 4 and can be seen clearly from Sheridan Road. There are still some small woody species that remain to be cleared. Burning will be conducted next week, as the weather will finally be optimal (frozen ground). The large debris and brush piles in Priority Area 1 will be broken down to create smaller burn piles. There was a small change in the management plan regarding the girdling of large non-native trees. The Park District and Conservation Land Stewardship (CLS) came to an agreement that selective removal over time (by the Park District) was preferable to the possibility of many large trees falling at the same time due to decay after girdling. CLS will work on the removal of additional non desirable trees instead.

Avian monitoring updates for 2012

Ed Collins conducted avian monitoring in 2012. He has done a blitz in the project areas, as well as the Swallow areas. 120 species were inventoried. Bowen did not have the diversity he thought it would have but this may be due to storm damage.

Lake Cook Audubon had a good presentation on Red Headed wood peckers. IBSP and Fort Sheridan had the highest quality and number of these birds. Bowen Park should be good habitat for them as well. We would like to put cameras in and see if there are Red Headed woodpeckers on site.

We would also like to consider getting a thermal gun to read ambient temperature inside swallow nest boxes and use the data as part of our reports. Heat due to climate change, may be cooking the birds in nest boxes. This could be a good project for Cool Learning Experience students.

Question:

What is a high species count on a site? Duane Ambroz stated that low 200's is considered a high species count. Construction and storms may be presently affecting the birds.

CLC internship completed – Bill Lebensorger

Susie Schreiber introduced Bill, commended his excellent work, and asked him to share his experience of mapping and conducting floristic inventories and transects in area B2.

Bill explained that he and Margo Milde used GPS units to determine boundaries of an old City dump area within the B2 wetlands. This area consisted of approximately 8-10 feet of trash that has gathered over the years. It is hard to get through due to downed trees from the 2011 storms. There is more deposition closer to Greenwood Ave., and it appears that some landscape waste is still being dumped down there illegally. Possible points of access into the site were mapped. They also marked areas on borders of the dump site where high quality plants are located. We would want to restrict or prevent trampling in these areas.

This information will be very useful for contractors, and we are going to use Bill's work for the basis of one of the grant submittals!

Illinois Coastal Zone Alliance

Because the Glen Flora Ravine is rated the 2nd highest in the Illinois Lake Michigan coastal zone, the B2 wetlands and the Glen Flora Country Club have been selected as potential project areas for a GLRI grant proposal.

Waukegan Jr. Fleet – Cool Learning Experience – Waukegan Harbor CAG

Chicago Wilderness Leave No Child Inside grants have been received for water focused educational opportunities in the harbor. Activities would be focused on the week of April 28- May 5 (Leave No Child Inside Action Week) and during the summer. The goal is to provide youth groups such as the Waukegan Jr. Fleet and Cool Learning Experience students with hands on experiences where they can learn about the recreational and science opportunities that exist, in and around the harbor.

The small grants will provide \$2000, to purchase good life jackets for the students, and water testing equipment. The life jackets will be purchased from Larsen Marine. John Shabica's Boy Scout troop has inherited the old Girl Scout canoes, and these will be used in partnership with the Jr. Fleet so both groups can have canoeing and sailing experiences. Water science units are now under development. All of this work is covered under our 2010 GLRI grant.

We are seeking transportation grants so we can have bus funding to get the-students to the harbor.

Lake Forest College

Lake Forest College is interested in working further with Waukegan Harbor CAG and College of Lake County. The Waukegan Harbor CAG met with them in early December and shared the CLC course content of the Natural Areas Management Certificate with Ravine and Dunal focus and internships. They are very excited. Lake Forest College will give credit for the GLRI funded environmental courses that their students take at CLC.

Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge – McHenry County

We now have a National Wildlife Refuge in Illinois! Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar formally announced the establishment of the 11,200 acre Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge on January 12, 2013.

Elections of 2013 Ex. Committee - Slate of officers presented.

The slate of officers for this year was presented at the November, 2012 Waukegan Harbor CAG meeting. Voting was scheduled for the January, 2013 meeting of the Waukegan Harbor CAG.

A big Thank you was given to Bob Chimeleski - who is moving to Wisconsin Energy. Due to his employment move, Bob—requested his name be removed for consideration as an Ex. Committee member. Don Wilson’s name was submitted by the Nominating Committee to replace Bob.

It was asked if there were any other nominations from floor. None were given. A motion was then made by John Bairstow and seconded by Sharon Sandoval to accept the Ex. Committee slate as presented by the Nominating Committee. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Midwest Generation Two Year Variance

Midwest Generation is petitioning for a two year variance regarding air emissions. This is not a delay to the actual plan - they will still meet the emissions standards by the 2016 deadline. The variance request is to provide them the necessary time to work with the current financial reorganization of their company.

They met with IEPA in 2006, and came up with a 10 year plan to clean up emissions. They have already taken care of the nitrogen oxide (NOX gas) and mercury emissions. They are now working on the Sulfer Dioxide emissions reductions, and fully plan to meet all emission reductions standards by the agreed upon deadlines.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks for many years of good service to the Waukegan Harbor CAG were given to Mike Joyce, who will be retiring in April, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Chimeleski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry Brewer seconded the motion, 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>

Illinois EPA – Environmental Justice website.

<http://www.ilenviro.org>

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

<http://www.glc.org>

Great Lakes Commission.

<http://www.binational.net>

Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy – Annual Progress Report

<http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/pubs/brochures/wlevels/wlevels.html>

Great Lakes Water Levels

<http://www.cciw.solec>

State of the Great Lakes – SOLEC full report

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

<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.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

<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)

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 USEPA 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 *USEPA in Illinois* section.

Additional 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 USEPA 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.



Waukegan Outer Harbor, Illinois

U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Chicago District



Legend



Proposed Disposal Location
Waukegan Harbor Channel

Location Map



Date: 1/17/2013



1 in = 1,000 feet