



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the February 21, 2013, 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 February 21, 2013, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chair, Susie Schreiber.

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

Attendance at the February 21, 2013 CAG Meeting:

Duane Ambroz	Illinois DNR
John Bairstow	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	LaFarge Corporation
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Tim Drexler	US EPA
Natalie Dutack	Concerned Citizen
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Mike Joyce	US EPA
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Heriberto Leon	US EPA
Mark Nagel	Midwest Generation
Mike Novotney	Lake County Stormwater Management
Susan Olavarria	Midwest Generation
Kathy Papp	Lake County Health Department
Mike Prusila	Lake County Stormwater Management
Steve Robillard	Illinois DNR
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Diane Tecic	Illinois DNR

GUESTS:

Ed Collins	Avian Monitor
Steven Grant	Grant Environmental and Civil
Christine Nannicelli	Sierra Club
Tim O'Leary	Diamond Mortgage
Irma Terry	Davey Resource Group

AGENDA

Tom Chefalo requested the invitation to the Lake County Strategic Plan meeting dates be added to the agenda (see “Announcements”).

MINUTES

Copies of the January 2013 Minutes were passed out for review. There were no additions or corrections. Don Wilson moved to approve minutes, Claudia Freeman seconded. The minutes were approved and passed.

UPDATES

USEPA – Presented by Mike Joyce

Mike Joyce is retiring from EPA on March 31, 2013. He introduced his replacement, Heriberto Leon.

Johns Manville

Johns Manville is currently contacting utility owners and preparing the work plans necessary for the response action approved last year for the remediation of the Southwestern Site Areas. JM and its contractors are revising the engineering design for the closure of the industrial canal, pumping lagoon and collection basin.

North Shore Gas former manufactured gas plant sites

The USEPA continues to review plans for the Remedial Investigation of the South Plant site. The USEPA expects to submit comments on these plans to North Shore Gas next month.

The USEPA and North Shore Gas continue to negotiate plans to address the sources of contamination at the North Plant former MGP site via a time-critical response action. If the USEPA and North Shore Gas reach an agreement in the next month or so, work could begin at the North Plant site sometime this summer. This work would be in addition to the remedial investigation of the entire site that is currently being conducted by North Shore Gas.

Yeoman Creek Landfill:

The USEPA continues to work with the site’s group of Potentially Responsible Parties, or PRPs, to address the methane gas that continues to migrate beyond the landfill boundary. Two additional gas collection systems have slightly reduced the amount of gas leaving the site, but an unacceptable amount of methane is still migrating to the adjacent nursing home’s property. Currently, the overall vacuum system at the landfill is operating 24/7 and appears to have addressed the urgent concerns identified by the USEPA. The USEPA will work closely with the PRP group to aggressively identify and implement a permanent solution.

The USEPA has funded a contractor, Skeo Solutions, to develop a reuse assessment for the site to see if it can be used to generate solar power. Skeo Solutions has drafted a preliminary report, which will be shared with Yeoman Creek site’s stakeholders shortly.

Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC)

See CAG Business for report from Tim Drexler

CAG BUSINESS

Avian Monitoring Report For Bowen Park and the Waukegan Dunal Area – Presented by Ed Collins

The survey was conducted from March through December 2013, in Bowen Park and selected portions of the Waukegan Dunal Area. The Dunal survey was restricted to the beach and a few inner dunes. Two kinds of surveys were conducted – Breeding and Migration. Avian surveys are conducted to:

- Establish baseline breeding information,
- Show what birds are using the site(s),
- ID any hotspots related to avian use, and
- Make site recommendations and point out issues related to avian use of the site.

For the Breeding Survey the sites were visited during two (2) time periods, March-May and June. To be recorded a bird needed to be present two (2) times in the early survey, and three (3) times in late survey. Breeding activity, such as the presence of nests, fledglings, and feeding were recorded. Points were established based on distance and terrain; seven (7) minutes were spent at each spot recording data.

The results of the breeding survey indicated 46 species at Bowen Park, with 31 breeding, or likely to breed. The Waukegan Dunal Area was split into North and South units. The North unit had a total of 50 species, with 22 breeding or likely to breed, and the South unit had 60 species with 29 breeding or likely to breed.

Migration surveys were conducted March-May and then July – December. A transect method was used instead of a point system this time.

Several limitations to the surveys were pointed out: drought, patch size fragmentation, human disturbance, noise, beach realignment, stormwater impacts, invasive species, and the loss of Mid-Continental Breeding habitat due to corn/soy crop conversion.

Significant results of the survey included:

- Forest interior birds at Bowen – these are birds that need big, un-fragmented forest.
- Rails and other wetland birds at the South dunes unit.
- Grassland birds at the North dunes unit.
- Shrubland birds in both North and South units.
- Presence of endangered and threatened species.
- Many shorebirds and swallows.
- Bowen and the Waukegan Dunal Area are critical habitat for migrating birds.
- On a negative note, there is evidence of Cowbirds parasitizing nests.

Recommendations for site management included:

- Maintaining the shrub-carr corridor – it is great habitat for birds.
- Repeated surveys using volunteers.
- Invasive species control and some brush removal.
- Potential grassland restoration.
- Keep trail width narrow to prevent habitat disturbance and fragmentation.

Priority Areas that will be monitored for 2013 are: A2 (post management), D, B2, and Johns Mansville.

The report goes directly to US Fish & Wildlife and Illinois Department of Natural Resources. A condensed report for the Waukegan Harbor CAG will be created and posted on the CAG website.

Glen Flora Tributary Hydrology Report – Mike Novotney

Lake County Stormwater Management received a grant from the USEPA to study surface water hydrology in the Glen Flora Ravine, two unnamed ravines to the north, and Ganster Ravine. They worked in cooperation with landowners, permitting agencies, and the Waukegan Harbor CAG with the goal of determining how is water leaving study area.

It was originally expected the flow went from west to east, and then north to Johns Mansville through storm water channels. It was also thought that some water flowed south under Greenwood Ave. Surface water monitors were placed throughout the Glen Flora Tributary, the two (2) Unnamed Ravines, and Ganster Ravine, for a total of eight (8) data inputs.

During their field investigation and assessment it was found that water is moving southwest to northeast – traveling southeast into Bowen and then turning northeast as it leaves the park, flowing into the B2 wetlands. From here it follows stormwater drainage culverts and ditches, through Johns Mansville, and into Lake Michigan. No water flowed south of Greenwood Ave.

The research was begun in September of 2011, a wet year, and continued throughout 2012, a dry year. There was deficit rainfall of about 13.5”, but as water was still flowing in spite of these conditions, it was determined that groundwater hydrology maintains water on site continually. Small spikes in flow were noted after rain events, by railroads, culverts, and similar areas. Beaver activity and debris jams also muted water activity. There was a general draw down in surface water level at sites 3, 4, and 5 due to evapotranspiration and drought.

Velocity data was taken - this related to tracking flow velocities and flow volumes. Spikes were seen in response to precipitation events. Data was lost temporarily when one box had power cut (vandalized), but SMC was able to get it up and running again.

Some basic facts the study revealed:

- There are backwater conditions. Perhaps water levels–from Lake Michigan have more of an effect than thought.
- There is a general gradient decrease of 3.5’ in flow patterns.
- There is significant potential to restore the area, and opportunities for enhancement along the Glen Flora Tributary.

For a more detailed report of the study results a full presentation will be held next Wednesday at Lilac Cottage. The final report will be available in couple of weeks.

Questions

Are there any erosion concerns?

Ganster Ravine is in good condition; there is some minor erosion. In the Glen Flora Tributary there is not a lot of active erosion.

Did the study reveal anything about quality?

Water quality studies were not taken. Only quantity was looked at in this study.

Is the landfill still there?

There was a landfill in the area.

OMC Superfund Site –Update - Tim Drexler, USEPA Project Manager

There are still three (3) elements USEPA and the contractor are dealing with: sediment, soil issues, and ground water.

Soil

Operable unit 4 still has to be remediated – it is above action levels of 1 ppm PCBs and 2 ppm PAH. The USEPA is going out to contract and hopes to be mobilized in March. Soil excavation needs to be done to remove those levels of 50 ppm or greater which must then be moved to a special landfill. An area of concrete still needs to be removed – it was found to be too heavy and stronger equipment was required. The area called “the western shelf” will be graded, with rebar being cut to ground level first, and then filled, to improve appearances.

A record of decision amendment document was signed in December 2012, regarding the area on the western side of Operable Unit 4, by the old die cast building. This 5 acre area is going to be turned into a containment cell. Three (3) foot thick slurry walls of clay will be installed to contain the waste in the area. There will be an engineered cap on top of that, similar to the other containment cells.

Groundwater

The TCE plume needs to be remediated. It will be treated with an oxidizer to break down TCE into non-toxic components. Monitoring wells will be installed – if effective, they will handle the other four (4) smaller plumes in the same way. They will be mobilizing sometime in late March. Clean fill will need to be brought in so they can transport equipment in. The property is exposed to atmospheric conditions, so there is some concern the plumes could move. Another soil vapor study will be completed at the end of March.

Sediment

In mid-March they will be re-mobilizing for dredging in the harbor. In the one month they dredged last year, 25% was completed. As this went really well, they hope to be done this year in August. A confirmatory sample process will be conducted.

Operable Unit 2 (coke plant) has been substantially remediated, but only to commercial standards. If the city wants to build homes they will need to put a cap on it. The outer harbor sediment is clean and the state has given the US Army Corps of Engineers permission to place it on Operable Unit 2. They will need 3 feet of cover. Currently there is already 0.5 feet of cover. Based on the volume they are dredging they can provide the 1.5 feet of cover so the site will then only need an additional foot of cover in order to build residential units on the site. Dredging is planned for June of 2014, so after the EPA is done working, the USACE will come in and place the sediment on site.

Questions

How long does an extraction well last?

These will be replaced periodically, as needed. Some on Operable Unit 3 already need to be repaired.

What are they testing for?

PCBs - If there are still concentrations more than 1ppm they will continue dredging.

Who approved of the sediment (clean) deposition? The USEPA.

Can the sand that is in approach channel be used as a cover?

This has been discussed and tabled for the time being. They are looking into the possibilities.

What is chronology of dredging? The contractors are working from outside in.

Will lab analysis of the discharge be made available? Yes. It will be posted on the website.

IDNR – AWR Fish Sampling Report for Waukegan Harbor

Diane thanked the Waukegan Harbor CAG for coordinating work on the Habitat Loss BUI document at the end of last year. The USEPA is reviewing the request for removal of the Habitat Loss BUI now. Duane Ambrose is now working on the habitat plan for the Extended AOC. Ed Collin's avian report will be very helpful in creating a full management plan for the Lake County Lake Michigan coastal area.

The IDNR is also working on the fish consumption BUI, and the benthos and plankton BUI. IDNR had an opportunity to do some baseline sampling for these two BUIs before the harbor dredging began. Several years of follow-up will be needed. The current Benthos and Plankton report will be sent to the Waukegan Harbor CAG website, and the next survey will be done in 2014. For the surveys, Waukegan Harbor was compared to Burns Harbor, Indiana. Results indicate that Waukegan has greater plankton species diversity than Burns Harbor. Benthos communities are not very good in either harbor because the habitat is poor and regularly disturbed in both of them. Additional data collected at other locations around the Great Lakes may help us to better interpret our benthos and plankton results.

For the Fish report, North Point Marina and Jackson Harbor in Chicago were used as control sites. Whitesucker, black bullhead, rock bass, and sunfish species were selected for generational turnover. One survey was completed pre-dredge, and another will follow in 2014. Results for public consumption will be posted. With black bullheads, the total PCB concentration was greater than restrictions for North Point Marina and Jackson Harbor. This means there is still an impairment. The full final report of results has been submitted to the Waukegan Harbor CAG for posting on the website

A request for input from Lake Michigan Stakeholders for the Illinois Lake Michigan Implementation Plan was made. IDNR has some great new tools for feedback including one called Mindmixer (illinoiscoastalpriorities.org). This site gives individuals the opportunity to tell the IDNR what their priorities are on Lake Michigan coastal issues. Ideas can be shared on the website, and anyone involved with the Waukegan Harbor CAG can go online and participate. This will be used to create a basis for prioritizing how IDNR spends grant money. They may have up to \$1 million a year to fund projects based on our priorities.

Questions

What is total budget for the coastal management plan?

About \$2 million a year, depending on federal budget priorities.

Did you just test for PCBs? We tested for everything.

Bowen Park Restoration

Work clearing woody material continued in Bowen Park. The large debris piles in Priority Area 1 are being broken down and burned.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The Waukegan Harbor CAG is working with partners to improve the high quality wetlands at the bottom of the Glen Flora Tributary. The Alliance for the Great Lakes has have submitted a Letter of Intent on behalf of our partner group. This is the first step in obtaining approval for a 2013 Great Lakes Restoration funding grant. We will hear sometime in March if we will be an invitee to make a full proposal. We were able to bring in The Glen Flora Country Club on board as a new partner. Their property holds the headwaters for the Glen Flora Ravine Tributary.

Disposable Diapers

The Waukegan Harbor CAG is trying a new approach to the disposable diaper problem. We are asking all partners, nonprofits, and government agencies to use a clean plastic diaper zipped into a clean zip lock bag when they meet with groups to get the message out for proper diaper disposal in public places. We want to encourage the public to put them in the plastic bags, and ***then place them in the garbage***. We are discreetly working on this. The diapers do not biodegrade well, and they carry E. Coli.

Conservation Congress

The Region 5 IDNR Conservation Congress meetings are taking place in March 12, 13, and 14th at the South Shore Cultural Center in Chicago. Participants at these meetings will be discussing present a look at regional environmental issues for the State of Illinois. This is another opportunity for Illinois citizens to have a say in how Department of Natural Resources prioritizes their services statewide.

Leave No Child Inside Event

Good news! We are working with Chicago Wilderness, the cities of Waukegan and North Chicago, Cool Learning Experience, and other partners, on Leave No Child Inside Action Week (April 28- May 5, 2013). The Waukegan Junior Fleet and Cool Learning Experience are our partners for the event. We have received a small grant from Chicago Wilderness to purchase good life jackets for this event and for use all summer in water testing and aquatic plant surveys down in the harbor. We have access to canoes and small rafts.

USGS

There has been a request from USGS to continue swallow monitoring under the recreational docks this summer. We are receiving instructional information from Chris Custer of the US Geological Service, and will be working with Cool Learning Experience and Waukegan Jr. Fleet students on the project.

USACE Detroit District

There will be a Shallow Draft Harbor meeting March 1, 2013, with an option to call in. Climate change has had a huge impact on coastal zones in the Great Lakes. The economies of the small and medium Great Lakes harbors are as important as the large ones. The small and medium harbors make up 2/3rds of the harbors on the Great Lakes.

Harbor Dredging Tours

The first tour will be on April 11, 2013 with the Latino Coalition leaders and the North Chicago – Waukegan Leave No Child Inside leadership. This tour will take place in the late afternoon early evening. The Waukegan Yacht Club has offered their facility for the first portion of the tour, complete with a small food service.. People meet here to view the harbor portion of the dredging work, and then will drive-over to see OMC Triax Bldg. site to see the huge containment facility for the dredged material. Paul Geiselhart has a list of the other interested parties.

Lake Forest College

The college is in the process of working with the College of Lake County to officially approve credit for courses taken by Lake Forest College students in CLC's Natural Areas Management Certificate Program.

College of Lake County

Two long term intern positions are being posted next week. They are 450 hour internships. One position will be affiliated with the Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern program, and one will be working with Margo Milde on her floristic inventories and transects.

ComEd

There is a new viewing site to see Lake Michigan! The former Tannery Site has been completely cleared along Pershing Road. Construction signs are up and drilling, sampling, and soil moving activities are underway. The Phragmites area is cordoned off, but is part of the site. We are working with IDNR and the agencies that approve plans such as this to ensure that the final groundcover used in these types of areas is appropriate.

Questions

Have you made any headway with Johns Mansville (regarding appropriate species use)? Yes, we have.

Midwest Generation

Last month Midwest Generation requested a variance from the Illinois Pollution Control Board. They have been in a 3 year phased plan to install sulfur emission control equipment in their Waukegan Station coal fired power plant. This plant is one of the first in country to install mercury and nitrogen oxide controls which work well. The third phase is to control the sulfur dioxide emissions. Because of the company's current financial reorganization, they need a little more time. They are requesting a 2 year pause (**NOT** an extension), with the goal of completing the sulfur emission controls deadline as originally agreed upon with the IEPA, and on time. They have asked the Waukegan Harbor CAG for a letter of support.

Midwest Generation has worked very hard with us to develop and implement this technology. The IEPA has one of the toughest set of emission standards, and Midwest Generation is ahead of the agreement deadlines. 70% of sulfur dioxide emissions crossing the US are from China, Mongolia and Russia, while only 30% are from the USA sources. A major goal is to have air emission control technologies available

for use/sale to countries overseas. This is a global process, and we are a part of it. We will entertain the request, and follow the process as it goes forward.

WG Jackson Visit

The WG Jackson research ship from Grand Valley State University in Muskegon, Michigan is scheduled to revisit Waukegan Harbor July 2013. They do hands on water research at 8 different work stations on the boat.

OLD BUSINESS

Bowen Neighbors Meeting

We will set up a meeting to bring the Bowen Neighbors up to date on the Lake County SMC Hydrology report. There are three (3) properties for sale, and we will work with the realtors involved to see if we can obtain permission to do Floristic inventories on each of them.

NEW BUSINESS

Great Lakes Day will be in Washington DC in March.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Chefalo noted that Lake County is working on the Lake County Strategic Plan and would like to have our input. We are invited to attend meetings where we can provide feedback on how Lake County runs. Please share your opinions on the plans focus area. Flyers for the meetings dates and locations were handed out.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Claudia Freeman. Tom Chefalo seconded. Meeting adjourns at 8:09 p.m.

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)

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.

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.

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*