



## Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297  
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

**Minutes of the March 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 March 21, 2013, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:07 pm 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 March 21, 2013 CAG Meeting:**

Duane Ambroz	IDNR
John Bairstow	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	LaFarge Corporation
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Barbara Cornew	Congressman Brad Schneider
Natalie Dutack	Concerned Citizen
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Joseph Hmieleski	Concerned Citizen
Trey Jackson	National Gypsum
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Bill Lebensorger	Concerned Citizen
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Mike Prusila	Lake County Stormwater Management
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Mitch Siegel	Concerned Citizen
Amy Strege	City of Waukegan – Finn & Finn
Tim Drexler	US EPA
Kevin Wermeling	Midwest Generation

### **GUESTS:**

Jim Bland	University of Wisconsin
Judy Boggess	Garden Clubs of America
Steve Grant	Grant Environmental and Civil
Christine Nannicelli	Sierra Club
Jon Shabica	<u>Shabica &amp; Associates</u>
Randy Syms	Waukegan Junior Sailing Program

### **AGENDA**

No additions.

## **MINUTES**

There were two corrections to the February, 2013 minutes from Tim Drexler, USEPA:

1. Operable Unit 4 Soil: Remove references to TCEs – change to PAH (poly aromatic hydrocarbons)
2. Operable Unit 2 (coke plant): Currently there is only 0.5 feet of sand on the site. The outer harbor dredge (clean sand, no PCBs) will provide 1.5 feet of cover so the site will still need an additional 1.0 foot of cover prior to any commercial/residential building being placed on the site.

Paul Geiselhart moved to accept the minutes with the corrections noted above. Larry Brewer seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

## **UPDATES**

Before moving forward Susie Schreiber read a letter from the USEPA pertaining to the Sequester and potential budget cuts. The letter was informational. If further action pertaining to our 2010 Grant is required, we will be contacted in the future.

## **USEPA**

### ***Johns Manville***

Johns Manville, in coordination with utility companies with infrastructure in the southwestern site area (Operating Units 3, 4 and 8), is developing work plans for the removal of contaminated soil in those areas later this year. Concurrently, Johns Manville is incorporating the USEPA's comments into the design for the closure of the industrial canal, pumping lagoon, and collection basin. Also, USEPA, in consultation with the Illinois EPA, is drafting the latest five-year review for the JM Superfund site. The review is scheduled to be completed in May, 2013.

### ***Yeoman Creek Landfill***

The USEPA continues to work with the Yeoman Creek Superfund Site potentially responsible parties, or PRPs, to address the methane gas that continues to migrate beyond the landfill boundary. An unacceptable amount of methane is still migrating to the adjacent nursing home's property. The USEPA continues to work closely with the PRP group, aggressively moving forward to identify and implement a permanent solution.

### ***North Shore Gas former manufactured gas plant sites***

The USEPA continues to review plans for the Remedial Investigation of the North Shore Gas South Plant site. They expect to submit comments on these plans to North Shore Gas soon.

The USEPA and North Shore Gas continue to address the sources of contamination at the North Shore Gas North Plant site via a time-critical response action. If the USEPA and the company reach agreement in the next month or so, work could begin at the North Plant site sometime this summer.

### ***Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC):***

See CAG Business for report from Tim Drexler, USEPA.

## **IDNR**

No News

## **CITY OF WAUKEGAN**

Just a reminder: Early Voting is coming up!

## **CAG BUSINESS**

### **Glen Flora Tributary Hydrology Report**

Susie Schreiber thanked Mike Novotney, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC), for his presentation on the Glen Flora Ravine hydrology study. The study was conducted on water flow and volume as the water travels through the Glen Flora, No Name and Ganster ravines into the B2 wetlands. In addition to the presentation given at the February Waukegan Harbor CAG meeting, the full report was presented twice to interested parties at Lilac Cottage in early March.

#### **Question:**

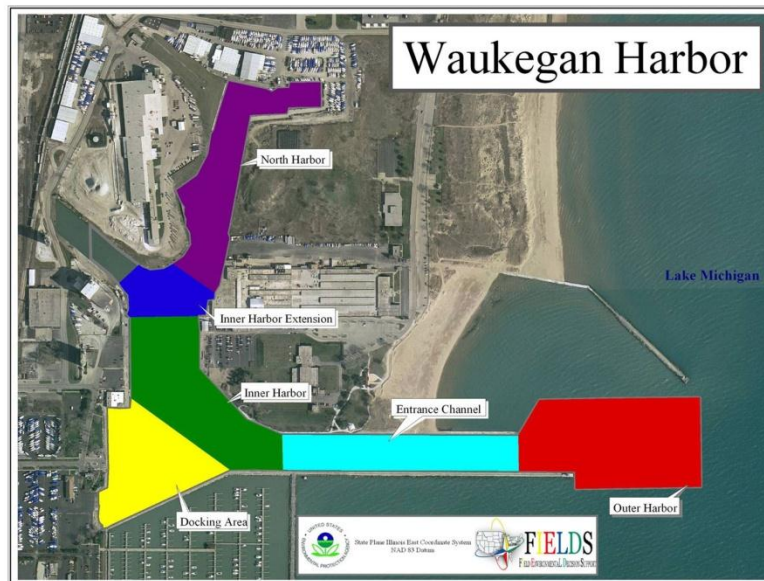
*Will the presentation be posted on the website?*

It will be posted on the SMC website when completed. The Waukegan Harbor CAG will put a link to it on our website.

### **OMC Superfund Site – Status Update** – Tim Drexler, USEPA Project Manager

Tim gave a quick recap of news from earlier meetings.

The contaminated sediment from the harbor will be deposited at the consolidation facility on the OMC property. The water treatment facility was modified and completed last September. Sediment from the harbor will come into the plant as a slurry, be treated, and then solids will be moved into the containment facility. The water will be treated and released back into the harbor.



To date, 42,000 cubic yards of sediment have been dredged from the harbor. Starting April 1, 2013 work will re-commence, 24 hours a day, 6 days a week, with 2 dredge heads operating. The goal is to finish dredging by the end of August, 2013. One dredge head will start in the outer portion of the harbor Entrance Channel, as this area is a little rougher. They will then be moving down to the south portion of the Inner Harbor. There are 23 dredging management units. Two (2) were substantially completed last fall, but as sampling still needs to be conducted on them, they are not yet closed out. The USEPA samples each unit to ensure the units have met the goals of not greater than 1ppm for PCBs before moving to the next area. They also take bathymetries to ensure they have reached the correct environmental dredge depth.

If temperatures do not reach above the teens overnight by April, the contractor will not be able to start dredging. It is a health and safety issues for people to work in a cold, wet environment. If temperatures get into the mid 20's, it will be safe to work.

The contractor cannot dredge within 20 feet of the seawalls due to the age of the structures. A one foot diameter riprap armor will be placed over a geo-membrane cover laid on top of the sediment next to the seawalls. The armor will be covered with an articulated concrete mattress. There will be a total of 600 feet of armor/mattress installed to protect the seawalls.



The water treatment equipment outside the Treatment Facility (Triax) building will continue to operate until the end of November, 2013. The water weeping out from the containment cells will be discharged to the water treatment facility inside the Treatment Facility building through the winter and into the spring of 2014. Around May, 2014 clean fill will be brought in as cover over the consolidation facility, followed by seeding. Then the property can be used by the owner, the City of Waukegan.



The USACE plans to dredge 100,000 cubic yards of clean sediment from the Outer Harbor in the spring of 2014 (RED area in harbor diagram that is not part of the Superfund dredge), and use it as cover on the Waukegan Coke Site.

There are still some groundwater and soil contamination issues on the OMC Plant 2 site. The contaminated soil will be removed in June 2013, with clean fill being brought in to cover this area. The contractor also will be bringing clean fill to bring some low areas up to grade. This will be followed by testing and injecting an oxidizer into the ground to clean up the PAH (poly aromatic hydrocarbon) contamination. There will be truck traffic going back and forth during this time.

Questions:

*When will dredging be started, in relation to the public boat launch opening dates for the 2013 season?*

They are prioritizing work in the area by the boat launches, and should be finished dredging this area by April 6, 2013.

*Will the quality of water be affected?*

Turbidity is tested and the water quality is not affected. They monitor to make sure they are not increasing turbidity in the water column. The method they use prevents this from happening.

*What are the start/finish dates?*

April 1, 2013 is the start date, and August 31, 2013 is the expected finish date.

*What is the volume of containment facility?*

183,000 cubic yards.

**Lake Michigan Littoral Sand Accumulation** - Jon Shabica, Shabica & Associates

Jon Shabica was in Washington D.C., for meetings on the effects of low Great Lakes water levels. Waukegan Harbor will be open, however many smaller harbors to the south of Waukegan Harbor will be closed this year. Naval Station Great Lakes cannot get ships out of their harbor due to low lake levels in Lake Michigan.

One big issue is that the amount of sand we have to relocate is beyond the permitted specs of the State of Illinois right now. The USACE Chicago District does not have experience with projects of this magnitude. Permission was given from the USACE in Washington, D.C. to work with the Detroit District which does have the experience required. While in Washington, Shabica & Associates met with members of the Ohio DNR and USACE who routinely move large amounts of sand using a hydraulic dredge (10-15,000 sq ft/cubic feet) and a 600 ft long ship.

This is a large project, and it will not just be for Waukegan. We are looking at the whole southern quadrant of Lake Michigan. It takes cost of dredging, usually \$22.00/yard, down to a couple of dollars a yard.

**Great Lakes Days – Washington D.C.**

Great Lakes Days in the nation's capital involves the International Joint Commission, the Great Lakes Commission, the eight Great Lakes states, the two Canadian provinces and numerous Great Lakes stakeholders. Presentations and discussions covered Great Lakes issues including AOCs, sand management, and the health of this large freshwater ecosystem. Four out of five lakes are bi-national.

As we go forward, and our federal funds are reallocated, even Lake Michigan has to consider issues of Canadian provinces such as water levels and withdrawals.

Currently Canada and the US have huge concerns about how much cropland is being converted to corn. There used to be “no grow zone” used as a buffer for native bird and insect species on farms. Now farmers are putting all the land into active production. They are also mowing right up to edge of streams and stream corridors. The use of herbicides and fertilizers is causing nonpoint source pollution in waterways.

Discussions on the effectiveness of Great Lakes programs, including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding which has locally contributed to a great many Illinois Lake Michigan restoration, monitoring data collection projects were prevalent. We met with Congressman Brad Schneider, (D Illinois 10<sup>th</sup> District) and explained how Great Lakes Restoration Initiatives funding has been crucial to the required work of delisting of the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern.

It is very important for the Waukegan Harbor Citizens’ Advisory Group to be at these events. As an Area of Concern, we are able to interface with top leaders, groups and agencies directing the Great Lakes clean up, and these individuals have the opportunity to hear directly from us. It is helpful to directly let them know who you are, where you are from, and quickly cover what the local problems/issues are.

Questions:

*Was the International Joint Commission (IJC) at this meeting?*

Their representatives and observers were at this meeting.

*Is the Great Lakes water quality agreement the same as IJC?*

The IJC is a commission. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is worked out under that.

**Lake Michigan Forum**

LAMP is now the acronym for the *Lake-wide Management Plan* for Lake Michigan.

The Annex to the Great Lakes Management Plan was presented. What makes this Annex important is the implementation of plans from December 2012 to June 2013. It establishes community member structure, contains a draft three-year Annex work plan, cross annex communication, and much more.

**1. Michigami Biodiversity Plans**

Michigami Great Waters 5 Year Plan for 2013-18, has divided Lake Michigan into units. We will have committee meetings and issues discussions based on where you are on the lake, NOT everyone all together as before. We are in the CHICAGO NEAR SHORE AREA,—an area that crosses state boundaries, and as such we have to note the different regulatory laws in each state.

**2. Conservation Congress**

The Illinois Department of Conservation “Conservation Congress” will be held in September, 2013 and Waukegan Harbor CAG members are encouraged to attend.

Last week the IDNR held discussions of how they view opportunities to use Lake Michigan, from shoreline to inland—at the South Shore Cultural Center. Diane Tecic was present from the IDNR, and Susie Schreiber attended along with a lot of other environmental groups interested in IDNR activities. Diane can be contacted at [Diane.Tecic@illinois.gov](mailto:Diane.Tecic@illinois.gov) if you have questions or suggestions.

### **IDNR Coastal Use Survey**

Diane Tecic, IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Zone Manager, presented the IDNR MindMixer questionnaire. Visit: <http://www.illinoiscoastalpriorities.org/>. This link will also be posted on the Waukegan Harbor CAG website. Here you can prioritize what you would like to see for usages of Lake Michigan and its coastal zone. The data will be used to further develop the Illinois Lake Management plan document.

### **Harbor Dredging Tours**

Paul Geiselhart has been working to set up harbor site tours. Chicago Wilderness Leave 'No Child Inside' North Chicago and Waukegan' members will have the first tour of this year in early April. Lake County SMC will be going one in early May, with the City of Waukegan tentatively scheduled for June – they are still working out the details. Schools can only tour during the day.

Groups will meet at the Yacht Club for a Power Point presentation by Tim Drexler, USEPA Outboard Marine Superfund Project Manager, and then will head over to the Treatment Facility (Triax) building for a tour of the water treatment facilities and the sediment consolidation site. We have asked that groups provide a list of attendees beforehand to make security sign-in on site easy. This list will be sent to the guard gate ahead of the event. The Waukegan Yacht Club will provide food for guest groups upon request when notified ahead of time.

### **College of Lake County**

The posting for two new long term intern positions is out and the interns will be selected in first week of April. One position will be working with Margo Milde, our GLRI floristic monitor, and the other will work with the Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern (POC) program to upload current POC data into the Chicago Botanic Garden's inventory. This year's interns will also get avian monitoring experience with both Ed Collins and Natalie Dutack.

s

There also will also be six short term interns. Postings will be out in mid-April for these positions. The first group of three interns will work from April to early July. A second group of three short term interns will start in late August to and work through early December.

### **Bowen Park**

Conservation Land Stewardship, our Bowen Park restoration contractor, continued to work on debris removal, and debris pile burning. Due to weather constraints they will not be able to begin the prescribed burn season until the first week of April. This burn season will be extremely short as spring plants will be emerging soon.

### **Chicago Botanic Garden**

Wednesday April 24, 2013 there will be a Plants of Concern volunteer monitor training held at the Chicago Botanic Garden. If you are interested, please sign up through the Chicago Botanic Garden website!

### **Piping Plover Monitoring**

Natalie Dutack, the Waukegan Harbor CAG Piping Plover Monitor, needs a few more volunteers for Piping Plover monitoring this year. Please contact her at [ndutack@gmail.com](mailto:ndutack@gmail.com) if you are interested, or know anyone who is.

### **USGS - Swallow Monitoring Stations**

The USGS will give a full presentation at the April Waukegan Harbor CAG meeting on their Swallow Monitoring research ongoing in Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Chris Custer, USGS, put up nesting boxes on Lafarge and National Gypsums properties last year. They check contaminants in egg shells through testing. They will be presenting us with the results of last year's test. This year we will partner-with the Jr. Fleet and Cool Summer Experience to continue monitoring swallows under the harbor docks.

### **Lake Baikal**

We have been invited to attend a museum conference in Lake Baikal at end of August and need to let them know by April 3rd. Money is allocated in the budget for Lake Baikal exchanges. Our colleague, Dr. Elena Kusevanova, would like to return here as well for the State of the Great Lakes and the State of Lake Michigan meetings this coming fall in Wisconsin. No decisions have been made yet.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **WG Jackson Visit**

The W. G. Jackson, a 65 foot long research ship from Grand Valley State University in Muskegon, Michigan, will be in Waukegan Harbor the first Tuesday after 4<sup>th</sup> of July this summer. Active research tours will be available Tuesday through Saturday for interested groups. There will be three 2 hours tours a day with participants getting to do actual water research on board. It is already two thirds full, so sign up soon!

### **Wind Power Conference**

The Wind Power Conference will be on May 5-8, 2013, in Chicago.

### **Great Lakes Week**

Great Lakes Week will be on September 9-12, 2013 in Milwaukee

### **State of Lake Michigan Meeting**

Come a day early and visit the Sheboygan AOC. The meeting is October 15-17, 2013. The government rate is decent, and you get condo facilities.

### **Great Lakes Beach Association Conference**

October 15-17, 2013 in Sheboygan, WI.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A Bald Eagle seen over Bowen Park by Claudia Freeman!

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Penny Bouchard, and seconded by the group. Meeting ended at 7:57.



## **WEB SITES**

<a href="http://www.waukeganharborcag.org">http://www.waukeganharborcag.org</a>	The Waukegan CAG website.
<a href="http://www.epa.state.il.us/environmental-justice">http://www.epa.state.il.us/environmental-justice</a> <a href="http://www.ilenviro.org">http://www.ilenviro.org</a>	Illinois EPA – Environmental Justice website. Good listing of all environmental bills in the IL House & Senate.
<a href="http://www.glc.org">http://www.glc.org</a> <a href="http://www.binational.net">http://www.binational.net</a>	Great Lakes Commission. Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy – Annual Progress Report <a href="#">Great Lakes Water Levels</a>
<a href="http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/pubs/brochures/wlevels/wlevels.html">http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/pubs/brochures/wlevels/wlevels.html</a> <a href="http://www.cciw.solec">http://www.cciw.solec</a> <a href="http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec">http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec</a>	State of the Great Lakes – SOLEC full report
<a href="http://www.lkmichiganforum.org/">http://www.lkmichiganforum.org/</a> <a href="http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakemich">http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakemich</a> <a href="http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/index.html">http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/index.html</a> <a href="http://www.epa.gov/lakemich">http://www.epa.gov/lakemich</a> <a href="http://www.sph.umich.edu/ehs/umaql/mass.html">http://www.sph.umich.edu/ehs/umaql/mass.html</a> <a href="http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lmmb">http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lmmb</a> <a href="http://biology.usgs.gov/S+t/noframe/x186.html">http://biology.usgs.gov/S+t/noframe/x186.html</a>	<a href="#">The Lake Michigan Forum</a> Lake Michigan Lake Wide Management Plan (LaMP 2000) <a href="#">Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council</a> <a href="#">Lake Michigan Sensitive Areas</a> Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study Lake Michigan Mass Balance Zebra Mussels in Southwestern Lake Michigan
<a href="http://www.gvsu.edu/wri">http://www.gvsu.edu/wri</a> <a href="http://www.epa.gov/OST/GLI/glimixqa.html">http://www.epa.gov/OST/GLI/glimixqa.html</a>	<a href="#">Annis Water Resources Institute</a> 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.

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**

*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*