



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the October 17, 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 October 17, 2013, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:06 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 October 17, 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
Evan Craig	Sierra Club
Roy Czajkowski	Concerned Citizen
Natalie Dutack	Concerned Citizen
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Joseph Hmieleski	Concerned Citizen
Trey Jackson	National Gypsum
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Bill Lebensorger	Concerned Citizen
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Doug Ower	Sierra Club
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Fred Veenbaas	Midwest Generation

GUESTS:

Jim Bland	University of Wisconsin
Dr. Elena Kuzevanova	Russian Academy of Science Museum of Irkutsk Scientific Center Branch

AGENDA ADDITIONS

Welcome to Dr. Elena Kuzevanova!

Congratulations to the Waukegan Park District on receiving the 2013 National Gold Medal Award for Park Districts with populations of 50,000 -100,000 exhibiting excellence in long range planning, resource management and agency recognition.

MINUTES

Claudia Freeman moved to accept the September minutes. The motion was seconded by Fred Veenbass, and the minutes passed.

UPDATES

USEPA

The USEPA cannot travel until October 20, 2013 due to the recent government shutdown. However, Tim Drexler was allowed to work part time, so there was no stoppage on the ongoing OMC Plant 2 and Harbor dredging remedial work. The dewatering plant is still going, and the capping will commence later this fall, with the final cap in place next spring.

CAG BUSINESS

Lake Baikal Update

Dr. Elena Kuzevanova

Six years ago Elena visited the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended AOC. She is very interested in the progress we have made towards delisting, and how we have removed PCB's from the harbor sediment. She shared a brief review of what is happening at Lake Baikal.

Lake Baikal is still clean, and it contains 20% of the world's fresh water. Many scientific institutions have studied Lake Baikal over the years. The most recent project was conducted during 2009-2010 when two small submarines went down to the deepest point in the lake, which is 1637 meters! They took samples and found new species of crustaceans, sponges, algae, and microorganisms. These are creatures that will only be found at the bottom of the lake. The Lake Baikal museum was responsible for the special underwater cameras which were placed on the submarine arms. Films were made of the lake bottom and used as part of an educational project at the museum - the virtual submarine.

Eleven years ago they began their work educating the students in the Baikal area. With help from the Waukegan Harbor CAG and Conserve Lake County, Elena created the first book on the life of Lake Baikal for elementary schools. Teachers and administrators understood the importance of the book and started to help develop the project. Their work highlighted the need for a second book, and a summer school for Lake Baikal studies. When the program began, about 100 students from the Baikal area participated, especially from small settlements around the lake. The program allows students to use computers and microscopes in their studies of the Lake and includes summer Olympiads. There are now more than 10,000 students participating.

Approximately 140,000 people live around Lake Baikal. Because Lake Michigan and Baikal share similarities we can compare stressors or lack thereof. Recently President Putin signed an order to close

the Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill, which was polluting the lake, and they have started the process of land remediation. Other management issues come from landfills, which contaminate the waters with sludge, and from an influx of tourists. Ten years ago Lake Baikal had about 50,000 visitors. Now there are over 500,000. There is no system of infrastructure for garbage collection and no sewer system. Tourists are littering and creating pollution. The government needs to develop an infrastructure to address garbage and housing regulations which in turn are directed to protecting the Lake.

There is now a federal program (grant) for the protection of Lake Baikal funded by the government and lake polluters. So far, with these funds they have started to form a Citizens' Advisory Group to guide the process of the grant, just as the Waukegan Harbor CAG did with the GLRI grant.

Questions

Can you drive around the lake?

You cannot drive around lake. There are two roads, with partial access around the bottom portion of the lake, and you need a boat to travel the rest of the way. There are 400 small boats (10-12 person capacity) which travel the lake. They have started a program to build 6 special sites to collect garbage from boats. The scientists didn't find garbage at the lake bottom with the submarine, so it may have been moved by currents. It may also be possible that it breaks down due to high oxidation.

What type of water movement takes place?

Water movement only occurs in the top 200 meters. Every 400 years all the water is turned over. Lake Baikal has oxygen (up to 14 milligrams per liter) because it is very cold, which is very unusual.

Where are the tourists from?

The tourists are mostly Russian. Only 10 % are from abroad.

What are your bottom sediments like? And has the lake been cored?

They are very fine sediments. The Lake has been cored. A large science vessel waited until the lake froze at a selected location. Then they drilled 300 meters from the bottom down. They now have a record of all climate changes for 7 million years – Lake Baikal is 25 million years old!

State of Lake Michigan Conference

A very informative and well run conference. A few experiences were shared by attendees as examples and comparisons between the Sheboygan and Waukegan Harbor Areas of Concern:

- “The Goosinator” – An orange remote controlled device used to scare geese off-site. It works in the short term, but Susie pointed out that the geese only move to another site, and this isn't a complete management solution.
- Bill Lebensorger related a Beach restoration success story from his sessions. Prior to restoration only 10-12 kids used the beach. After restoration many families came to the beach which helped create revenue. In Sheboygan they have a thirteen billion dollar tourism industry, \$5-6 billion is water related, and approximately 3,400 jobs are lake related. There has been a loss of property value due to PCB contamination, and phosphorus and invasives are still a big issue. This was a good example of the concepts driven home during the plenary session -“The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment” (Gaylord Nelson).
- John Bairstow spoke to Dr. Julie Kinzelman about beach health issues. One management technique used was a beach groomer to separate out rocks and garbage. Julie says that Beach

restoration should actually be habitat restoration. After completing a beach health assessment, she leaves best management practices behind with the beach manager.

- Sheboygan River Area of Concern – there has been a lot of education of the local populous. A newsletter was mailed, posted online, and distributed in local restaurants. It was noted that in Sheboygan there is a lot of support from the local government and industry, but less participation from educational partners.
- The Nature Conservancy presented on their Biodiversity Plan for Lake Michigan. Tom Chefalo noted that they primarily used CMAP for the Illinois portion of the Lake Michigan shoreline evaluation, and reminded them that Lake County has a wealth of separate in depth data for their portion of the shoreline which is in addition to CMAP data. The Nature Conservancy should be encouraged to engage more with the local communities and planning agencies.
- Duane Ambroze presented (poster) on the Waukegan Harbor AOC, and reported that people were most interested about fish in the wetlands. Everyone is very encourages by what we have been able to do here.

Questions

Were there any lake trout presentations? Yes, but they were on PCB levels in lake fish.

Are nearshore species disappearing? Yes, this is being correlated to the presence of Quagga mussels.

USACE

The USACE was dredging during the shutdown - money from Super Storm Sandy paid for that. They removed a portion of sand in the approach channel.

Bathymetric Survey of Swimming Area

Brennan has been contracted to get the actual depths of swimming area by the wing wall, the interior swimming area and the southeast end of government pier. Water is up about 18 inches since January, when it was at an all-time low. The question is how best to do sand management for the long-term needs of all users. We have been working with our congressman to address the issues since the storm blockages of 2011. We can see that the swimming beach is growing – the water has become shallower, and people can walk further out. We are trying to address safety issues related to this.

We now have accurate maps with new information. The deepest point is around 23 ft. We see that the southwest is also where a large portion of the sand blockage is coming from, and if it meets the northeast plume it will block the harbor.

Question

Does that CAG have any input/opinion on dredging? We support maintenance dredging, but we are trying to figure out the best place to put the sand (beneficial place).

Salmon Unlimited

On September 14, 2013 there were 120 attendees for the kids fishing tournament. They caught a lot of Gobies.–The largest fish were an 8 ¼ pound Chinook Salmon and a 1 pound Rock Bass. The weather was nice and everybody had a great time! The participants were mostly children aged 7-11.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Penny Bouchard and seconded by Larry Brewer. The meeting ended at 8:14 p.m.

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*

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.

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.