



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the November 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 November 21, 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 that they represent.

Attendance at the November 21, 2013 CAG Meeting:

Duane Ambroz	IDNR
John Bairstow	Concerned Citizen
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Barbara Cornew	US Representative Schneider Liason
Evan Craig	Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter
Lisa Draper	Concerned Citizen
Natalie Dutack	Concerned Citizen
Tim Drexler	USEPA
Susana Figeroa	Concerned Citizen
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Joseph Hmieleski	Concerned Citizen
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Bill Lebensorger	Concerned Citizen
Heriberto Leon	USEPA
Deb Maurer	Lake County Forest Preserve District
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Kathy Papp	Lake County Health Dept.
Scot Prindiville	City of Waukegan
Steve Robillard	IDNR
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Diane Tecic	IDNR
Fred Veenbaas	Midwest Generation
Barbara Waller	First Baptist Church Waukegan & Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Domenico D'Alessandro	D'Alessandro & Associates
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AGENDA

There is one addition to the Agenda.

MINUTES

There are no additions or corrections to the October, 2013 meeting minutes. A motion to approve them as presented was made by Claudia Freeman, and seconded by John Bairstow. The minutes passed.

UPDATES

USEPA

Update on the two North Shore Gas Manufactured Gas Plant sites

North Plant – The removal of contaminated soil and debris continues, with approximately 100,000 tons of contaminated material disposed and/or treated as of November 11, 2013. Soil and groundwater testing continue as part of remedial investigation work to determine a long-term remedy for the site. As part of this effort, new soil boring locations along Dahringer Road were finalized in the past month.

South Plant – A revised draft Remedial Investigation (RI) report was submitted by the PRP (Integrus) on October 31, 2013 and is currently under review. The revised report incorporates comments from the USEPA and IEPA conveyed to the PRP in July, 2013. The USEPA anticipates completing its review by the end of November, 2103. More importantly, the USEPA anticipates approval of the RI report by the end of this year.

Johns Mansville

From: Matthew Ohl, EPA Remedial Project Manager

The drainage system for the Settling Basin is under construction (see schedule below.) The USEPA is currently reviewing the Removal Action Work Plan for the Southwestern site area. A Comprehensive monitoring report should be finalized by the end of November, 2013. The public comment period on the discharge crib modification at Johns Mansville was completed on October 30th. USEPA has 5-year review on JM website.

The updated schedule of construction activities at the Settling Basin:

Date	Activity
Week of Oct. 28, 2013	North Berm excavation for preparation of storm drainage pipe installation
Week of Nov. 4, 2013	Clay capping of crushed concrete area
Week of Nov. 4, 2013	Asbestos sludge excavation for manhole area
Week of Nov 19, 2013	High density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe and manhole installation
Week of Nov. 26, 2013	Bentonite plug installation around pipe

OMC Superfund Site

The USEPA hopes to be completed with the Harbor work in a couple weeks. The North Marina is being reconstructed to the specifications of the Waukegan Port Authority, and the last of the concrete mattresses are being laid in place. Effectively, work will be done in the Harbor (Op Unit 1) by early December, 2013.

The USEPA is working with USACE on the outer harbor dredging, which is estimated to begin in June 2014. Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of sediment will be transported into the harbor and placed on the coke plant site (OP Unit 2). Berms will be created and sediment will be placed into the bermed area. When complete the area will be seeded and left for the City of Waukegan's use.

Op Unit 4 - Dismantling of the water treatment plant behind the Triax building is slated for Spring 2014. Once that is dismantled, the concrete pad will be sitting out in the open. The pad will be removed, and they will then extract the contaminated soil underneath. The east and south side also need soil excavation. This will start in Spring 2014 and will finish in Summer 2014.

Direct Push technology will be used for groundwater remediation. Geo-probes will push pipe into shallow and deep portions of the ground, extracting groundwater samples to get a current picture of contamination. Then an oxidizer will be used to reduce the toxicity of the groundwater. Injections are anticipated to start in Spring 2014 and will be completed in Summer 2014. Sodium permanganate will be used to break down TCE into daughter products that will then break down by themselves. This work will be monitored, and air will also be pumped in to prevent TCE from traveling elsewhere. Permanganate essentially becomes dirt.

There will be one final containment cell in the southwestern portion to address - there is PCB concentration there. That work should be completed by the end of Summer 2014.

September 30, 2014 is the target completion date for all work.

A side note – large spawning salmon were spotted on the OMC property in the north ditch in mid-October, 2013!

Questions

Is the 100,000 cubic yards of sediment separate from the 150,000 cubic yards?

Yes. The 100,000 cubic yards is sediment from the outer harbor to be deposited on the coke plant site. The 150,000 cubic yards additional is for open lake disposal.

Is the outer harbor categorized as clean sand?

Yes, but it is only suitable for upland disposal due to the ammonia content.

Is the new containment cell a ring, or will it involve removal of sediment?

There is 28 feet of sandy sediment and then till at the base (hard panne clay). A trench around the perimeter keyed 3 feet into till will be constructed, essentially creating a bathtub. Then extraction wells will be installed so ground/rainwater won't degrade the walls. The wells will direct the water flow into a treatment unit built into the side of the cell for removal.

IDNR

Diane Tecic

Good news from the USACE! They will do substantially more dredging in the approach channel and advanced maintenance channel (150,000 cubic yards). They are requesting an amendment to their permit to IEPA. It is confirmed that they have money in hand.

City of Waukegan

Nothing to report.

CAG BUSINESS

Waukegan Park District Honored Mayor Wayne Motley

Mayor Wayne Motley was recognized for 18 years of service in October. Mayor Motley gave nice a tribute to the Waukegan Harbor CAG and the work that we have done. Thanks for the recognition!

Dr. Elena Kuzevanova's October 2013 Visit

During her visit Dr. Kuzevanova met and visited with the Waukegan Park District, the Waukegan Port District, Chicago Wilderness, and Midwest Generation. She felt that the meeting with Midwest Generation was very helpful, and she is taking information back to Lake Baikal, noting in particular the technology being used here. She also met with the Field Museum and discussed partnering with the Waukegan Harbor CAG and the Field Museum on the creation of an exhibit about the Great Lakes/Waukegan Harbor CAG at the Lystvianka Museum on the shores of Lake Baikal.

She has had numerous requests for 10,000 more copies of her book on Lake Baikal for 5-7th grade students which we initially help to fund, and has asked us for more help with a second publication run.

Paul Kukaris noted that there was an article about Lake Baikal in the New York Times today. There have been archaeological finds of global significance at Lake Baikal - some of the oldest bones found of man! People are looking at the Lake Baikal area from all over the globe now.

Thanks to Congressman Brad Schneider's office for assisting with Dr. Kuzevanova's visa, which is good for 3 years! She is hoping to return in April 2014.

Bathymetric Survey of Swimming Area

Brennan conducted a bathymetric survey of areas north and south of the wing wall, the entire swimming area, and south side of the east end of Government Pier. They will be adding contour numbers to the map. Lake Levels are up and ships have come in. Thanks to Tim Drexler, USEPA Superfund and his team, for getting the harbor clean!

Questions

What's lake level difference from last year?

The difference is about one (1) foot.

Fish Refuges in Marina Presentation

Domenico D'Alessandro

The Great Lakes had a great number of coastal wetlands which were depleted or eliminated all together due to shoreline development. Wetlands are major spawning areas for fish. What happens to fish populations in urban areas where the wetlands have been lost? Domenico wanted to learn how to create fish habitat niches in built environments, using existing structures.

In 2005 Friends of the Chicago River came to Domenico's then company former employer. This meeting instigated the building of the Chicago River Fish Hotel. The hotel consisted of a frame that supports habitat niches below water. This was still not the answer - a large scale system is needed.

His more recent project addresses pollution deposition into water from bridges. He created a design that can treat that water, a hybrid of the fish hotel and a floating island. The fish refugia can be brought up and down out of the water and wetland species are planted on top. Other products include a buoy mobile wetland which has a wetland environment which can be placed anywhere along a lake. It can be tugged about and the depth can be changed. There is a different version for inland lakes. This model compensates for poor water quality and circulates the water.

The Burnham Harbor Project was designed to create similar habitat in marinas - the inspiration coming from green parking lot designs. Can we create swales - along the existing framework of the marina? Domenico designed a system of frames with ledges. Each ledge can be moved up and down within the frame. This provides much more habitat than the floating island. A greater variety of habitat can be created (benthic, fish, avian). The slip would be divided with wetland system in the middle, providing habitat for fish. This system would help water quality and get rid of smells. This would also create wildlife corridors. The system does not interfere with boat traffic as the habitat is enclosed within the slips. Domenico would like to design one for Waukegan Harbor. He has asked for help in creating a pilot program here. This would involve the development of one slip to test the system out.

There are several research opportunities associated with this proposed project:

Can marinas be compensated for any loss of slips? Will overall water quality improve? Will it redevelop marinas as destinations for the community? What species will use it? If it could be done all over the Great Lakes what would the impact be? What happens to it in the winter? What about storms?

Questions

What are cost estimates?

For example: The bridge was \$15,000. It would be \$20-25,000 for a system that is 20 feet long.

What are the maintenance costs?

Just replace plants if they die. You don't have to go underwater to do anything. Palettes lift up out of the water.

Are there studies regarding impacts/benefits to life?

Yes, it would be enhancing natural processes/systems for the lake.

What about Quagga mussels?

That is a concern to address as they go forward.

How big were the circular floating islands?
20 feet diameter.

What material are you using for the frame?
Aluminum.

RAMSAR

Debbie Maurer - Lake County Forest Preserve District

Debbie and the LCFPD are working to have the Chiwaukee - Illinois Beach Lake Plain RAMSAR certified. This project area would cover land in both Illinois and Wisconsin, and includes portions of Bowen Park and the Waukegan Dunal area.

What is RAMSAR? It is an international convention establishing criteria to recognize international wetlands of significance. There are 160 member countries. The United States signed on in 1987. The project goal/certification will help ensure conservation and wise use of wetlands and does not impose restrictions on nations. It is not regulatory, but celebrates our natural resources. The RAMSAR convention lists the importance of a wetland in the eyes of many countries.

A site must meet at least one of the 9 RAMSAR criteria. Written endorsements are required from all landowners, as well as an endorsement from a Member of Congress. For this project we will need one from IL and one from WI. There are also optional, additional letters of support (from both state's coastal programs, Storm Water Management Commissions, Chicago Wilderness, etc.). The committee in the United States is eager to have the number of RAMSAR sites increase. There are currently 35 sites across the country, with 2 of them in Illinois.

What are the benefits? RAMSAR certification can help increase community pride, increase community and global awareness about the importance of the site, and promote environmental education. Designation of the entire area will help people recognize the site as a one system. RAMSAR certification can also lead to an increase in funding opportunities, water conservation partnerships, and scientific studies.

The boundaries of a site do not have to be contiguous. In the Chiwaukee – Illinois Beach Lake Plain there are already 14 different landowners, and the area is a little over 4300 acres. The IDNR has been working with Pleasant Prairie, WI to create a conservation corridor through the area. Even though it is fragmented in Illinois, it is high quality. Illinois sites include Spring Bluff Forest Preserve, portions of Dead Dog Creek, Glen Flora tributary, Illinois Beach State Park, portions of Bowen Park and the Waukegan Dunal area, and more.

Landowners on board thus far: WDNR, IDNR, Village of Pleasant Prairie, Zion Park District, Waukegan Park District, University of Wisconsin Parkside, The Nature Conservancy, Lake County Forest Preserve District, and friends groups. One of the goals of this meeting is to reach out to additional landowners in our project area.

Once the application is completed, the USFWS will review it, then The US RAMSR committee, followed by the International RAMSAR committee in Sweden.

If there are any questions, please contact Deb Mauer, and she can be ready with those answers for next

month's meeting! The Waukegan Harbor CAG is preparing all of our monitoring data for her.

Questions

Does it cause extra scrutiny because to receive the designation?

Yes. There will be a push to maintain quality.

Does it get reviewed?

Yes. Every 5 years. LCFPD will take the lead on this. They are also working on signage that will indicate the RAMSAR certification.

Waukegan Harbor AOC

Duane Ambroz

When the Habitat BUI was removed last year, part of agreement was that the IDNR would create a Habitat Management Plan for the Expanded AOC. It is impossible to write a plan due to the many landowners, so the document is meant to be used as a guideline. The site is divided into 7 segments (noted for present and future use).

Illinois Beach State Park (IBSP) is already managed by the IDNR, so what we are really looking at are the surrounding areas. The Waukegan Dunal Area has four separate land owners *and* has the highest quality sites outside of IBSP. The recommendation is to continue managing high quality areas.

The area from the AOC south to Waukegan Harbor is being looked for future redevelopment by the City of Waukegan. The IDNR would like to know how they can help with development in order to ensure the continued improvement of the near-shore habitat of Lake Michigan. Data on pollution from upstream sites is still required.

There are several large property owners in North Chicago. We don't know what their long term plans are, but green infrastructure initiatives are encouraged. The area is sand starved, and there is no near shore habitat.

The Amstutz Expressway, the rail roads, and the ComEd properties are all together. Wetlands surround this corridor. We want to better manage the water and invasive species in this area.

The Near Shore Habitat is the part of the coastal plain extending one mile out into Lake Michigan. This habitat is different from the rest of Illinois. It is very sandy which effects benthos, what can grow, how fish will use it and more. We need to better understand the water quality and how water moves out into the lake.

Diane noted that this is a first draft. It requires comments and habitat management recommendations from the CAG and its members!

Great Lakes Task Force

A letter from Senators Mark Kirk and Carl Levin was sent to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works supporting language in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that increases funding for harbor maintenance. This will be posted on the Waukegan Harbor CAG website.

Burn Update for Bowen Park and the Waukegan Dunal Area

The latest burn plans for the Waukegan Dunal Area have been approved. We are just waiting on good conditions for the Bowen burn.

Ravines are Fragile and Important

The November 3, 2013 issue of North Shore Weekend News had a big article on how great Ravines are and their importance in the global ecological system. The article is written by Bill Mclean, and will be posted on the Waukegan Harbor CAG website.

Chicago Wilderness

Bill Lebensorger and Susie Schreiber attended the Chicago Wilderness Executive Council meeting. This will be discussed further at January meeting.

Migratory and Breeding Bird Report

The report details that 100-300 million birds die from building collisions, 50 million by lines, and 60 million by cats. We are reminded to keep our cats inside, treat glass to prevent collisions, and try to eliminate pesticide use which kills what the birds eat. It was also noted that 20% of the US population spend time bird watching and 40 million travel to see birds across the country.

OLD BUSINESS

IDNR Grant Applications

IDNR grant applications are now online. Kudos to the IDNR for having such a great website. It is simple and easy to use.

LET IT BE REFLECTED in the minutes that Vince Moscow found Susie's missing car keys at the end of the Lake Michigan Conference in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, thus allowing her to pick up our guest from Russia on time at O'Hare airport.

NEW BUSINESS

Waukegan City Vision

There will be a site tour meeting on Saturday November 23, 2013 from 2-3:00 p.m. followed by a Visioning Session at 3:30 p.m. in the Waukegan Main Street Office.

Waukegan Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count will take place on January 1, 2014 with Joel Greenberg. Joel also has a new book coming out about the Passenger Pigeon. On February 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. he will be giving a talk at the Greenbelt Cultural Center in Waukegan.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by John Bairstow and seconded by Kathy Papp. The meeting ended at 8:15 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.

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*