



## Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297  
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

**Minutes of the February 20, 2014, 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 20, 2014, 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 February 20, 2014 CAG Meeting:**

<b>Larry Brewer</b>	LaFarge Corporation
<b>Penny Bouchard</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Tom Chefalo</b>	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
<b>Evan Craig</b>	Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter
<b>Roy Czajkowski</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Natalie Dutack</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Claudia Freeman</b>	Waukegan Park District
<b>Tim Grimscheid</b>	Waukegan Park District
<b>David Holzrichter</b>	Waukegan Park District
<b>Trey Jackson</b>	National Gypsum
<b>Paul Kakuris</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Bill Lebensorger</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Heriberto Leon</b>	USEPA
<b>Shai Lothan</b>	Waukegan Lakefront Development Corp.
<b>Lisa May</b>	City of Waukegan Alderman
<b>Steve Robillard</b>	IDNR
<b>Susie Schreiber</b>	Illinois Audubon
<b>Diane Tecic</b>	IDNR
<b>Mike Trigg</b>	Waukegan Park District
<b>Fred Veenbaas</b>	Midwest Generation

### **GUESTS:**

<b>Todd Degner</b>	Davey Resource Group
<b>Michael Edgar</b>	Greater Waukegan Development Coalition
<b>Chris Heslin</b>	Bowen Park Neighbor
<b>Cassie Hoffman</b>	
<b>David Johannesen</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Christine Nannicelli</b>	Sierra Club
<b>Denis Petersen</b>	Bowen Park Neighbor
<b>Jeff Roberts</b>	

## **AGENDA**

There is an addition to the agenda on Sand Management.

## **MINUTES**

The following changes were requested for the January 2014 Meeting Minutes:

- Correct the spelling of Todd Degner's last name.
- Remove Joe Hmieleski from the attendance list.
- On page 5, question 3, add Testing for asbestos and *other* constituents.

Paul Kakuris has noted that some questions from January's meeting are unanswered.

Motion to approve the January 2014 Meeting Minutes carried with the three (3) corrections noted above.

## **UPDATES**

### **USEPA**

#### **Update on the two North Shore Gas Manufactured Gas Plant sites**

##### **North Shore Gas MGP North Plant:**

1. No site investigation work was conducted during January due to weather conditions.
2. The removal action continues at the site, with *in situ* stabilization and solidification (ISS) work ongoing. About 100,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil/debris have been treated so far. Of this 44 percent was excavated and disposed of off-site at a landfill in Countryside, Illinois. Approximately 56 percent was treated on site using in-situ stabilization and solidification (ISS) technology.

##### **North Shore Gas MGP South Plant:**

1. USEPA approved the Remedial Investigation report for the South Plant on January 22, 2014.
2. The draft feasibility report, which will discuss media (soil and underground water) of concern, cleanup objectives, and various alternative cleanup plans, is expected by spring of this year.

##### **Outboard Marine Corporation:**

1. Disassembly of the treatment plant used for harbor dredging is scheduled to begin in March, with completion planned for April.
2. Final contaminated soil and concrete excavation is planned to begin in April and will last twenty weeks. The area of excavation is around the Triax Building. An estimated 22,000 tons of soil above 50 ppm for PCBs, and 12,500 tons of soil below 50 ppm for PCBs, will be removed.
3. Construction of the Old Die Cast containment cell on the west side of the OMC Plant 2 property is scheduled to begin this spring, with completion planned by the end of this summer.
4. Construction of the cover to the harbor sediment consolidation facility is planned to begin this spring with completion planned by mid-Summer.
5. Construction of a water treatment plant to service the consolidation facility, west containment cell, and Old Die Cast containment cell is planned for this summer.
6. Dredging of the Outer Harbor by the US Army Corps of Engineers under USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office is planned for June, with placement of the clean sediment in a berm that will be built at the Waukegan Coke Plant site on Sea Horse Drive.
7. Injection of an oxidizer to degrade solvent plumes at the OMC Plant 2 Site is scheduled for this summer.
8. Construction completion of the OMC site is planned for September, 2014.

## *Questions*

*Will snow affect plans when it melts?*

It may push the timing back – we will check with Tim to verify.

*What are the plans for the area by the railroad (Old Die Cast Building-part of Op Unit 4)?*

We don't have the status at this time. USEPA will explain in detail at the March CAG meeting.

*What are the plans for North Plant Coke and the Com Ed sites?*

The City of Waukegan plans have it designated as open green space. We need to engage with North Shore Gas and ComEd on these projects. The final make-up of the cover seed crops will hopefully adhere to the carefully thought out seeding guidelines developed by the Illinois Natural History Survey with input from the Chicago Botanic Garden and members of our restoration team for the near shore coastal properties in the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern. Crown vetch is definitely not a cover crop appropriate for these areas.

*What about the sand and the public trust doctrine?*

We haven't had a chance to talk about it specifically.

*Will there be some kind of cover for the sediment that will be placed in the berm that will be built at the Sea Horse Drive Coke Plant site(Op Unit 2)? How much sediment is expected to be placed in the berm and how high?*

Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Outer Harbor will be placed in the berm to be built by the USACE at the Op Unit 2 Sea Horse Drive Waukegan Coke Plant (WCP) this summer. This temporary berm will be about 8 ft high. The surface of the sediment will be stabilized by seeding. Ultimately, the sediment will be spread across the WCP to act as a cover so that the property can be developed to residential standards.

## **City of Waukegan**

There was no report.

## **CAG BUSINESS**

### **Floristic Monitoring**

We have some difficult news to share about floristic monitor Margo Milde, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Prior to this, Margo was planning on coming back to continue her work. She remains dedicated to completing all of the floristic the inventories, and getting us all of our data, while undergoing chemo. The Chicago Botanic Garden and the Morton Arboretum hold the records for all of her floristic work completed for us. We will be sending her a card from the Waukegan Harbor CAG.

### **Waukegan Harbor CAG Nomination Committee**

Susie presented the officers for the Executive Committee: Susie Schreiber - Chair, Larry Brewer - Treasurer, Penny Bouchard - Secretary, Paul Geiselhart, Trey Jackson, John Ohl and Don Wilson - Directors at large. This is the team that helped bring in the 2010 GLRI Grant. Claudia Freeman moved to accept, and Tom Chefalo seconded. There were no further discussion, and all were in favor. The motion carried.

**The Center for Conservations Leadership- Susie Hoffman**

The Center for Conservation Leadership is a program for high school students in Lake County. It is an outreach educational program for conservation of Lake Forest Open Lands in which students from all over Lake County participate. The largest participant group comes from Waukegan. A lot of socioeconomic diversity is represented, and students come together on common conservation goals. Participants start the program in June, and spend three weeks in northern Wisconsin to really learn about conservation, stewardship, team building and environmental justice. They get a new appreciation of the outdoors with no electronics.

When they return, they are paired with an adult mentor. Members of the Waukegan Harbor CAG have acted as mentors in the past. During the program students identify a stewardship project for their own community. They work on school recycling, permeable school sidewalks, water quality testing, and advocacy projects. After they present their projects, they receive a certificate and can come back as interns, where they put their skills and leadership training to work in the following summers.

Lake Forest Openlands was the recipient of an Illinois Coastal Grant to study local ravines. We will be running the program again this summer with the Waukegan Harbor CAG's help. If you know someone who is interested let Susie Hoffman know. The 2014 certificate ceremony is in April 26, 2014 - please come hear them present!

*Questions*

*What ages participate?*

Students who have just finished 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Bowen Park Next Step Improvements and Management**

*Mike Trigg and Tim Girmscheid*

The Waukegan Park District is going to do one more project to improvements to the Frog Pond and surrounding area in Bowen Park. Natural areas management and improvement of the area led to talks about improving the Morrison Shelter. The shelter is just to the north of the Frog Pond, and it gets a lot of use. The small frog pond is a magnet for children, and it gets a lot of use. The Park District is working with Hey and Associates to design the improvements. They are looking at slowing down water flow from the adjacent parking lot to the west, expanding the natural areas, creating buffers, installing a small rain garden to the south, and reducing hydrological pressure onsite. They would also like to expand the hard surfaces, but make them permeable. This will be a high quality restoration and include educational signage. The plan will be presented to the Waukegan Park Board next week, and they anticipate doing a lot of the work this coming fall.

*Questions*

*Where is the funding coming from?*

The Waukegan Park District has \$50,000, and \$50,000 is also coming from the Waukegan Harbor CAG as part of work under the 2010 GLRI Grant.

Diane Tecic noted that the IEPA has some funding for green infrastructure.

### **BIG BELLY Waste Receptacles**

We are looking at ordering more Big Belly waste receptacles for placement on the lakefront at the harbor and in Bowen Park. The Waukegan Park District is interested.

### **Waukegan Park District**

*Dave Holzrichter*

The Live Green Family Festival was started as a program to bring awareness to the Waukegan community about Earth Day. The 2013 event saw 1,500 people come out. The focus is on environment, sustainability, green practices, and outdoor activity. This year there will be an outdoor cooking demonstration, gardening presentations, recycling event, scavenger hunt, and projects on invasives species and cigarette clean up. There will also be a butterfly, frog and water monitoring demonstrations. Illinois Audubon will have a booth, will receive a special recognition for their help with the recent acquisition of the area known as the "Bowen Triangle" at the very north end of Bowen Park. This year's festival will take place on April 27, 2014 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., by the Jack Benny Center. For those who are interested in helping, Dave can be found at the Belvidere Recreation Center.

### **Bowen Park Neighbors**

In 2011, storm events took out hundreds of trees and created erosion problems on ravine slopes in and around Bowen Park. The CAG was able to work with Healing Our Waters as the grantor and Conserve Lake County as the grant sponsor to provide the \$10,000 for the Waukegan Park District to remove damage and debris from their property. The GLRI grant was adjusted to address the new site conditions. We have had the help of the Bowen neighbors in this project. We have been searching for the opportunity to help them with some of the major storm damage which remains on their properties and is extremely difficult to access except through Bowen Park.

The Waukegan Park District applied for a 2014 Sustain our Great Lakes grant in coordination with the Waukegan Harbor CAG, to address remaining storm damage and debris removal at Bowen Park and the neighbors' properties. We are very happy to have the Bowen neighbors as a part of this project. Those neighbors and citizens interested in volunteering through avian or floristic monitoring should contact the CAG. Pictures and outreach to the community would also be very helpful!

### *Questions and Comments*

*Is there any hunting being done of deer? Poaching is suspected.*

Not that anyone is aware of at this time.

*Concern was expressed about an island that has formed in the middle of the creek near Sheridan Road. We need to work with IDOT to address this issue and were given permission by the nearby property owner to assess the situation and take pictures.*

### **IDNR**

The Dredging Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) removal request has been put on our website for review. The IDNR will go to the USEPA requesting removal of this BUI as all dredging for PCB removal is complete, and all PCBs are down to an acceptable level. IDNR would like to have input on the document, and when all comments, edits are in, to have the Waukegan Harbor CAG approval through a letter of support.

There were six BUI's identified for the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern. We now have more habitat and better conditions in the AOC than before. The removal of the

BUI will allow the harbor to be dredged as needed without testing for PCBs. There will still be some standard testing, but the issues will be reduced. This will allow for better management of sediment and harbor blockages. The IDNR needs comments back by February 28, 2014.

### **Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern**

The IDNR is also finishing the Extended AOC Management Plan, in coordination with the Waukegan Harbor CAG. There have been some extensive edits to the site history and addition of more up to date monitoring data. IDNR would like to post second draft on our website for comment. They hope to present the corrected draft at the next meeting.

### **Question**

*Is mitigation in the EAOC a contingency to delisting the entire AOC?*

The Area Of Concern is their focus for delisting. The Waukegan Harbor CAG also wants to focus on the Extended Area of Concern. We have to address the other properties issues as they do affect the AOC, but we don't have to clean up the whole EAOC. The IDNR is the lead state agency working with the USEPA on the delisting of the Waukegan Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern.

### **Sand Management (ADDITION)**

Three to four months ago the USACE did a national shoreline study, and now they will focus on the entire Great Lakes coastline. This study will look at what is going on along the Great Lakes coastline for sediment movement, sand accretion, natural structural impairments and more. With a general assessment of this type, they can better determine if they need to provide more federal money for present issues. This will also be valuable for future policies and initiatives, and will provide guidance for numerous federal agencies.

The IDNR had been in talks with Waukegan about the sand management issue within and near the Federal Channel. There are some short term ideas, but they are also looking at the long term management tools. The USACE-Chicago District put in a funding request to do a year-long study-to assess the current sand migration and resultant problems from the Wisconsin line down to Wilmette.

The IDNR would like to put together a group of stakeholders who really have some interest in this and come up with sustainable long term strategies and complimentary solutions. A strong stakeholder group can get together and see the bigger picture.

*A NOTE ON DREDGING* – The USACE will do additional harbor dredging this year as noted in the OMC report from USEPA Project Manager, Tim Drexler, earlier in this set of minutes.

### **Education/Communications**

The Executive Committee approved directing some of GLRI grant communications money to the Lake Forest Openlands' Center for Conservation Leadership this year. The proposed plan is to have two of their interns working at the Waukegan Swimming Beach and the south end of the Waukegan Dunal Area – providing education for the public and beach clean-up. This would help achieve some of public education and outreach goals of the grant. We have other potential interns for whom we would like to provide monitoring opportunities at both Bowen Park and on the Waukegan Dunal Area.

### **Chicago Wilderness**

Susie will forward information on training opportunities to those who are interested.

### **IDNR Grants**

*We are currently looking at all potential grants.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **RAMSAR:**

RAMSAR certification will make our region part of an international site of recognition. Deb Maurer will be using our baseline work and data as part of the application. The CAG will be writing a letter of support.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **National Public Lands Day**

National Public Lands Day is the last weekend in September. We are just getting putting it in on everyone's radar.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Claudia Freeman, and seconded by Tom Chefalo. The motion passed. 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 Department of Natural Resources  
Illinois Environmental 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. Environmental 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.