



## Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297  
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

**Minutes of the March 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 March 20, 2014, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chair, Susie Schreiber.

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

### **Attendance at the March 20, 2014 CAG Meeting:**

<b>John Bairstow</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Larry Brewer</b>	LaFarge Corporation
<b>Penny Bouchard</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Mary Ross Cunningham</b>	Lake County Board – 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Tim Drexler</b>	USEPA
<b>Natalie Dutack</b>	GLRI – QA Mgr
<b>Claudia Freeman</b>	Waukegan Park District
<b>Paul Geiselhart</b>	Lake County Audubon
<b>Joe Hmieleski</b>	GLRI Bowen Park Project Mgr
<b>Trey Jackson</b>	National Gypsum
<b>Paul Kakuris</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Bill Lebensorger</b>	GLRI Grant Administrator
<b>John Legge</b>	IDNR
<b>Lisa May</b>	City of Waukegan Alderman
<b>John Ohl</b>	Salmon Unlimited
<b>Steve Robillard</b>	IDNR
<b>Ania Rusenj</b>	IDNR
<b>Sharon Sandoval</b>	NSSD
<b>Susie Schreiber</b>	Illinois Audubon
<b>Diane Tecic</b>	IDNR
<b>Mike Trigg</b>	Waukegan Park District
<b>Fred Veenbaas</b>	Midwest Generation
<b>Barbara Waller</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Don Wilson</b>	Concerned Citizen

### **GUESTS:**

### **AGENDA**

No additions.

## **MINUTES**

The February meeting minutes will be reviewed during the April 2014 monthly meeting.

## **UPDATES**

### **USEPA**

#### **OMC Superfund Site – Tim Drexler**

During this year's field season, USEPA will be working on the removal of the treatment site behind the Triax building. Once the treatment plant is dis-assembled, the concrete pad underneath it will be removed. ~~We~~ USEPA will ~~also~~ then remove the remaining 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil (PCBs and TCE). A separate water treatment plant will be created to service the consolidation facility, west containment cell, and Old Die Cast containment cell.

The consolidation facility will be covered with a 3 foot clay cap, soil, and native seed. Some modifications to the seed list have been made based on input from the IDNR - Natural Heritage Division and the Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern. There is an estimated mid-July completion goal for this portion of the project.

The Old Die Cast area at the west end of the OMC Plant 2 site is roughly 5 acres in size. A slurry wall and extraction wells will be created to dewater this area. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be dredging 100,000 cubic yards of clean sediment from the Outer Harbor of the Federal Channel this summer which will be placed on top of the site as cover after it has been dewatered.

The USEPA has identified solvent plume areas around the site, has installed monitoring wells, and taken groundwater grab samples. This summer, an in-situ chemical oxidation process will be used (sodium permanganate) to break down the TCE plumes. Through a monitoring well network established to south, west, and east, we will monitor how those plumes degrade, and then determine if anything needs to be done in the future.

We had some initial discussions with the Waukegan Port District regarding some potential dredging in the north portion of the Recreational Harbor and possibly using this sediment to fill in low areas on the OMC Plant 2 site. It does not have the right properties to be used as a base.

### ***Questions***

*Is the eastern containment cell going to be hooked up to the new plant?*

No, the City of Waukegan just created a new stand-alone cell.

*Is the cell lower?*

Yes, it is lower than the original design as there was less sediment needing to be dredged than originally thought.

*Will there be a maintenance pumping center for groundwater filtration?*

Yes, there is an existing pump now, and a pump will be attached to it. A line will run to the west where the new water treatment plant will be located.

*Will the rest of the area be open space? Will it be a mound?*

It will be mounded. The land use designation is unknown.

*What is approximate final footprint of the consolidation facility in acres?* About 3-5 acres.  
*Do you have a final number for the amount of dredged sediment?* 124,000 cubic yards

*Are you budgeted for everything this year?*

Yes. We do have a budget for additional groundwater injections, based on results of this first year of work.

*What type of monitoring is going to occur going forward?*

We need to work out an Operating and Maintenance (O&M) plan. The State will have to designate a monitoring zone. Assuming we are able to break down solvents, we would move into monitoring natural attenuation just as we are doing at the Waukegan Coke Plant on Sea Horse Drive.

*By which organization?*

We will be working through the State of Illinois or the City of Waukegan. The USEPA will not be doing it. By the consent decree, the City of Waukegan has to perform the operations and maintenance of the system in perpetuity. We are currently working through exactly what-responsibilities will be required and who will be doing them.

*Who is responsible for Fish Monitoring?*

The IDNR is responsible. They will have to continue monitoring to see what the PCB levels are in the fish.

*What is tested?*

Mercury, chloroethane, and also for general fish advisories.

*When you have these remediation processes that take a while, aren't there restrictive covenants put on some of the parcels?*

Yes.

*Do they subdivide it?*

We are hoping it will be fairly straight forward as the City of Waukegan owns the property.

### **Johns Manville**

Construction starts in April 2014 for the remediation in the Pumping Lagoon and Industrial Canal area of the north side of the site. Road construction will be one of the first activities. A geotextile liner will be pulled across the Pumping Lagoon and Industrial Canal. Fill material will be removed from the manufacturing area (central area) and the southwestern site area. This fill material will be placed on top of the geotextile liner in the Pumping Lagoon and Industrial Canal to fill it in. Clean cover materials will then be placed over the area and seeded with native vegetation recommended by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Natural Heritage Division. Groundwater samples will be collected from the wells next to the Industrial Canal for asbestos analyzation during construction. Construction activities are expected to be completed by early 2016.

## **IDNR**

Dredging is has been completed for PCBs, and the Approach Channel dredging is upcoming. The draft BUI Dredging Delisting document is now on the CAG website. The IDNR would like our input and edits on the document, and have CAG approval through a letter of support.-

The USACE had additional funding for more dredging. They received a variance so they can dredge up to 175,000 cubic yards and will be hitting the area north of the wing wall. This will be in addition to work in the Approach Channel and Outer Harbor.

## **City of Waukegan**

No report.

## **CAG BUSINESSS**

### **Small & Medium Harbors**

The Great Lakes Small & Medium Harbors meeting was held this past week. ~~Susie shared~~ Documents from the meeting were passed around explaining what the stakes are and showed an updated budget from President Obama. The 8 Great Lakes states and 2 provinces have made it clear that they are working together and almost all the senators are on board. Waukegan Harbor continues to be a designated and used as a harbor of refuge.

### **Questions**

*Why hasn't Senator Durbin signed on?* We don't know at this time.

### **Sea Wall**

The USACE has funding for the installation of safety ladders along the sea wall on the north side of the Entrance Channel. People will be able to navigate to a ladder if they fall into the water.

This still leaves the east portion of the sea wall on the north side of the Entrance Channel in bad need of repair. The USACE has estimated that this project will cost a little less than \$5,000,000. A public-private partnership has been suggested, and they are looking at the coming years' budgets.

### **Birding Chicago X Conference**

There were several wonderful presentations at the conference. We would love to have them come out to a CAG meeting. They have some great new programs that we could use in the Waukegan area.

### **2012-2013 Avian Inventories**

Ed Collins provided an overview of his 2012 and 2013 Avian Inventory for Bowen Park and the Waukegan Dunal Area.

The Waukegan lakeshore sites have an interesting ecology – they contain dry sand prairie, beach and dunes communities, shrublands, wetlands and at Bowen Park, ravines. The B2 wetlands below Bowen Park to the east also proved interesting – it is a disturbed area, but has very nice wet and mesic prairies.

The goals of the inventory were to:

- 1) establish a baseline of breeding bird use on of all sites, and
- 2) establish a baseline for migrating birds on all of the sites.

Hotspots and issues related to avian use were identified.

### ***Breeding Birds***

For breeding birds the point method was used. This involves listening for calls and watching for nesting activities. Birds need to be present 2 out of 5 times. Breeding activity counts even if only seen once. At Bowen Park in 2012 there were 46 species, with 31 breeding. In 2013 there were 36 species, with 31 breeding. There were more forest interior birds in Bowen Park. Bowen is providing critical habitat for many forest interior birds whose numbers are declining due to change of forest type. Veery, Wood Pewee, Red Eyed Vireo, and Great Crested Flycatcher were some of the species present. The number of species was reduced in the second year, but this was likely related to intensive site remediation work and will rebound now that clearing is completed.

The Waukegan South Dunal Area had 60 species, with 29 breeding in 2012. In 2013 there were 41 species with 32 breeding. Spotted sandpiper are seen all over and in good numbers. There are also a lot of swallows (multiple species) present from the harbor all the way north to Illinois Beach State Park. The Waukegan South Dunes and wetlands have a lot of shrub birds. Bell's Vireo was present and this was the first and only time that Ed has seen it in all the years he has been conducting inventories. 13 European gold finches were seen this year – someone must have let them out and they are becoming established.

The North Dunal (Johns Manville) area had 27 species, and 22 breeding in 2012. For 2012 only the dunes area was monitored. The internal portion of the Johns Manville site was monitored in 2013 showing 36 species, and 31 breeding. *The 2013 data shows that the site is significant as it had almost the entire grassland bird suite.* We have decimated the prairie in our region. ~~so~~ Prairie bird numbers are way down, making the high use numbers on this site even more significant.

### ***Migration***

Ed could not stress enough the importance of the Waukegan site for migratory birds. For his inventory he tried to capture spring and fall migrants. Simple presence counts, and there are a lot of birds using our area: 542 species noted in Bowen Park, 3,341 in the North Dunes, and 2,478 in the South Dunes. *Our site is significant for forest interior birds and Threatened and Endangered species.*

### ***Site Issues and Recommendations***

We are losing millions of acres of bird habitat across the nation due to agricultural practices; therefore our habitat is crucial for birds all across the territory.

Patch size, fragmentation, and human disturbance are major issues throughout the sites. Ed also noted that there is some nest parasitism from cow birds. He recommends narrowing the trails in Bowen to make them more like nature trails, and maintaining the shrub areas in the dunes which are avian hotspots. We need to be careful with brush removal – remove invasives but keep the lower quality natives. Ed commented that he could already see the positive effects of invasive management in the dunes and suggested the use of site volunteers.

“The opportunity to preserve this open space is rare and amazing. Please manage the site for birds!”

### ***Tree Swallow Egg Testing***

Swallow nesting boxes are being monitored in all AOC's. An egg is taken from each box and examined for chemical uptakes. A more definitive report was handed out this week ~~and~~ showing that while Waukegan was at the top for HIGHEST egg contamination for PCBs, we are lowest for mercury! USGS have asked to monitor more nest box sites in the Waukegan AOC and Extended AOC in the future. Cool

Learning Experience and Lake Forest Openlands Conservation Leadership students will help complete an inventory of all swallow nests in the Recreational Harbor this coming summer.

#### **Citizen Science Resources and Opportunities**

Project Squirrel Watch is an excellent Citizen Science Program. We are getting a robust picture of squirrels and how they use our environment. Squirrels collecting the nuts and burying them are critical to providing the next generation of oak trees. How well the squirrels are doing relates to how well the oak trees are doing. There will be a new link on the website for those interested, along with more opportunities.

#### **Tree Care & Wood Utilization 101**

Waukegan Park District did a nice program on the Emerald Ash Borer presented by Davey and by the Delta Institute. It was a nice opportunity to learn about EAB best management practices, and also presented interesting options in wood utilization. These would allow for use and benefits from downed trees directly in the communities from which they are taken from.

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

The recent conference brought us up to date on the management of the Great Lakes. A major point was the Water Resource Development Act. They hope to have the 2013 Act passed this spring or fall. On the same day they had all of the reports out from all of the Great Lakes states. Maps were presented showing the different Great Lakes issues, like aquatic invasive species and how they get here. Susie passed information around for those interested.

#### **Great Lakes AOC Meeting – USEPA Region 5 - Chicago**

Bill Lebensorger and Susie Schreiber attended the recent the Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC) meeting in Chicago. Informative reports from all 32 AOCs were presented. The US Geological Survey presented the results of their ongoing swallow egg testing—which are available online on the USGS website. Energy issues were a major topic of conversation. It is important to have correct accurate information, so we can be best informed.

#### **Waukegan Park District**

Just a reminder that the Waukegan Park District 's Live Green Family Festival is Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The focus is on environment, sustainability, green practices, and outdoor activities, similar to the popular Going Green Matters event held in Wilmette this past February.

#### **Earth Day Eco Fair**

The Village of Antioch has requested that the CAG to have a table at at their Eco Fair which is being held Saturday, April 26, 2014. They feel that it is really important for the west side of Lake County to know what the east side of Lake County is doing, especially in the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern remediation and restoration. Tom Chefalo will create a display and represent the CAG.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Bowen Park Neighbors**

We haven't heard yet on the status of the Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant application made in February for the remaining 2011 storm damage restoration at the base of the Glen Flora ravine. We should be notified shortly.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Chicago Wilderness Conference**

The Conference will be held April 3, 2014 at the UIC campus for those interested in attending.

### **Delta Institute**

The Delta Institute is a municipal leader for regional waste analysis. They have improved waste management in the Chicago metropolitan area. Due to time constraints for tonight's meeting, the Delta Institute information will be posted on the CAG website.

### **Sierra Club**

The Sierra Club is hosting a Clean Energy Forum April 15, 2014. They will be discussing ~~some~~ state policies on clean energy, looking at statewide legislation, and renewable energy topics.

### **Note**

Nate Shipkowitz, a major supporter of the CAG who passed away last month was recognized for his long term participation in the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group. Nate followed CAG meetings closely from the early 1990's onward.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Claudia Freeman and seconded by Penny Bouchard. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:12 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.