



## Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297  
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the May 15, 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 May 15, 2014, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:05 pm by the Chair, Susie Schreiber.

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

### Attendance at the May 15, 2014 CAG Meeting:

Harold Beadle	City of Waukegan Ward #4
Judy Bogess	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Roy Czajkowski	Concerned Citizen
Tim Drexler	USEPA
Natalie Dutack	GLRI QA Manager
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Bill Lebensorger	GLRI Grant Administrator
Heriberto León	USEPA
John Lugge	IDNR
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Kathy Paap	Lake County Health Department
Syed Quadri	USEPA
Steve Robillard	IDNR
Rich Romanek	National Gypsum
Susie Schreiber	Waukegan Harbor CAG
Bill Schleizer	Delta Institute
Fred Veenbaas	Midwest Generation
Barbara Waller	Concerned Citizen – First Baptist Church
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

### GUESTS:

Rosemary Heilemann	League of Women Voters – Lake County
Nicky Obenauf	Davey Resource Group
Christine Nannicelli	US Sierra Club
Omprockash Patel	Westin Solutions
Jeff Roberts	Concerned Citizen
Lora Roberts	Concerned Citizen
Harvey Sheldon	Atty – Waukegan School District

## **AGENDA**

Additions to the Agenda:

- IDNR Rip Current Safety week information - John Legge, IDNR
- Planting opportunity on Libertyville Township Openspace by Lake County Audubon - Paul Geiselhart
- IEPA update: proposed new rules for coal ash disposal and management

## **MINUTES**

Minutes: The February, March and April, 2014 have been completed, and will be ready for review and approval at the June, 2014 meeting.

## **UPDATES**

### **USEPA**

#### ***North Shore Gas (NSG) North Plant Former MGP:***

The current removal action (to remove the most contaminated soil at the site) has remediated about 300,000 tons of contaminated soil and debris. About 44,000 tons of the excavated soil was disposed off-site at a landfill in Countryside, IL. The rest has been treated on-site using in-situ stabilization and solidification (ISS) technology.

#### ***North Shore Gas (NSG) South Plant Former MGP:***

1. The USEPA has begun to review the draft Feasibility Study Report submitted by the gas company on 5/9/14. The report describes the various cleanup options for each media of concern. These cleanup options were evaluated against the 9 criteria established by USEPA, including protection of human health and environment, compliance federal / state requirements, toxicity / mobility of contaminant, implementability, cost, and public and State acceptance. After reviewing these cleanup options, the USEPA will select its preferred alternatives and will issue a public notice with its preferred plan. This requires a 30-day public comment period.
2. Follow-up on last month's presentation of the South Plant RI findings: The Waukegan Port District's administrative and maintenance buildings are equipped with vapor barrier systems which mitigate any potential vapor intrusion issues that have surfaced in the investigation.

#### ***Johns Manville:***

Geotextile has been pulled across the Pumping Lagoon, and access points to the lagoon are being constructed with clean fill. The sewing of geotextile panels continues at the Industrial Canal. In late May, Johns Manville expects to begin pulling geotextile across Industrial Canal and start the filling process. The USEPA is reviewing the revised work plans submitted by Johns Manville.

The USEPA is creating a new community involvement plan for these sites. They are looking for creative opportunities to locally engage the general public. They have a sign-up sheet for people interested in being interviewed as part of the process.

### **Questions**

*How did we survive all these decades with all these severely polluted sites?*

We know well executed site remediation is a long process. There are a lot of steps to reach the **best** plan for each site's clean-up.

*Is everyone in agreement on why we need this from USEPA? Is the cost too much?*

Superfund law takes budget into its calculations. Part of the determination of the remedies is the cost. USEPA evaluates a number of different options to make sure we are doing the most cost effective remediation to protect people and clean up the site.

### **IDNR**

Last month the IDNR announced that the Governor was hoping to make an announcement of the Dredging BUI removal for the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern at the harbor. It appears the event will happen later this summer.

IDNR has also provided a second draft of the Waukegan Harbor Extended AOC management plan. Please see the Waukegan Harbor CAG website for a full copy of DRAFT #6. IDNR is seeking additional comments and opinions.

### *Addition:*

Rip Current Safety Week - A Great Lakes Water Safety Class is taking place Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 at the Waukegan Yacht Club. The event is free and is partially sponsored by the IDNR Coastal Management Program. The course is on water safety and other water related hazards.

### Questions

*What is the governor announcement about?*

The delisting of the Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) of the harbor in the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern.

*Who is conducting IDNR class?*

David Benjamin is conducting the class. He is from an NGO, a Non-Governmental Organization which teaches these classes around the Great Lakes.

### **City of Waukegan**

No report.

## **CAG BUSINESSS**

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

Everything is going according to schedule. Most subcontractors are in place and performing the remediation work. Work onsite will increase through spring and summer.

### *Triax Building*

Work will start with the removal of the concrete pad behind the Triax building so the soil contamination beneath it can be addressed. This will be followed by excavation around the east and south sides of the building site. Using the access road on the eastern side, they will be adding gravel and geotextile fabric to build up a berm of about 10,000 cubic yards to contain the treated sediment.

### *Trichloroethylene (TCE) Plumes*

Crews have already started injections of liquid sodium permanganate into the TCE plumes. There are two crews working simultaneously. The monitoring well network has been set up to test effectiveness of the sodium permanganate injections. The results will be monitored over time.

### *Final Containment Cell*

Construction of the final cell at the most contaminated area of the OMC Plant 2 site is about to begin. Part of the cell will consist of a slurry wall *and* a clay wall. It will contain 30,000 cubic yards of clean sediment dredged from the south recreational harbor. Once the actual dredge takes place the material will be brought by barge to be unloaded at the old Waukegan Coke Plant. From here it will be trucked for deposit in the containment cell. This will save \$3,000-4,000 off the initial OMC Superfund budget, and will save the Waukegan Port District money as well. The excavations will be done by September or October of this year at the latest.

In terms of timing, the USACE Outer Harbor Dredging won't start work until mid-August. It is possible to complete work this year, but it could go into next year.

**Note:** Because of confusion with the three (3) separate coking sites, in future descriptions they will be identified as the:

- 1. "Sea Horse Drive coking facility"
- 2. "North Plant coking facility"
- 3. "South Plant coking facility"

### *Water Treatment*

There will be a new water treatment plant built which will service the:

- New Consolidation Facility holding the recent harbor dredge material.
- The three (3) older Confined Disposal Facilities (CDFs) built by OMC during the early 1990s harbor cleanup and currently run by the City of Waukegan as the property owner. The current water treatment plant for these units have reached the end of their life.
- Final CDF under construction on the west end of the site.

### Questions:

*Is the 30,000 cubic yards clean?*

It will be tested – but the sediment to be used *is not contaminated*. It is drift coming into the entrance channel of the South Recreational Harbor and continually blocking it. We are doing a couple years' worth of dredging so we won't have to do this again for a while.

*Is there an asbestos fiber count for residential standards?* Yes, it is non-detectable.

### **Yeoman Creek - Sayid Quadri, USEPA**

Yeoman Creek Landfill (70 acres) was in use from 1959-1969. In 1969 pollution was discovered and the site was listed on the National Priority List (NPL) in 1989. Initial response actions were created (RIFS) from 1995-99. Then a Record of Decision (ROD) and the consent decree were signed.

Some issues were noted in the first Five Year Review (2008) and Second Five Year Review (2012). Methane gas was found on the adjoining property. A final remedy is currently in place. In the parking lot area at that adjoining property, the vapors are being extracted to prevent them from going towards the nursing home. Other proactive, protective measures are in place including methane monitors that let the fire department know if levels get too high, a sealant has been applied to the basement slab, and an additional passive/active extraction system is planned for completion in 2015. Additionally, there are some PCB related questions about some of the sediments from 2012 which the Yeoman Creek Remediation Group (YCRG) and USEPA are now evaluating. The landfill caps have good integrity and

there are active and passive gas management systems in place.

In 2010 the YCRG came up with a reuse memorandum to “reuse the site for the benefit of the community”, and solar panels were one option. Public access is not desirable on site as there are security issues. The site has 45 acres suitable for solar panels making it a compatible remedy. After the second 5 year review was made in 2012, USEPA conducted a Phase 1 solar reuse assessment. This was a pre-feasibility analysis to see if panels could be installed on-site, and was followed by a Phase 2 assessment.

As for solar re-use, the YCRG is evaluating the financial impact, ownership, and revenue scenarios. Currently there are there are 3 scenarios:

- The landowner retains ownership, or a
- Purchase scenario, where someone comes in and buys it, or
- A lease with purchase option scenario.

Solar is only one of the potential futures for this property. The YCRG needs more studies to satisfactorily answer all of the questions. The attorney for the Waukegan School District explained that no decisions would be reached on solar until we are sure it is worthwhile, and indicated there would be public discussions and a hearing of the matter.

Questions:

*Who decided on solar panels?*

Re-use studies have been performed by YCRG and USEPA, and solar was determined to be a viable option. YCRG is comprised of the City of Waukegan, the Waukegan School District, and several corporations.

*Who owns the land?* The majority of the land is owned by the Waukegan School District, some parcels are owned by the Waukegan Park District, and some by private parties.

*How is the gas that is generated within the remediated landfill collected?* There is an active collection system and the gas is burned off.

Comments:

A meeting attendee stated that if a company were to invest in solar here, there is 0.5% rate cap increase for Illinois consumers. Conversely, it was also noted that the rate payers still pay.

**2010 GLRI Grant**

Bowen Park - Conservation Land Stewardship

A prescribed burn was conducted in Bowen Park in April. A final round of herbiciding was conducted by CLS in the first week of May.

Bowen Park – Davey Resource Group

Seeding and plugging of ravine slopes in Bowen Park should be done tomorrow. The frog pond will be seeded, weeded and fenced. Planting plugs will be installed tomorrow. Two weeks after herbiciding they will finish seeding the south buffer area by the ballfield. Trees have already been planted...Davey expects to complete the re-vegetation work by end of next week.

Waukegan Dunal Area - Davey Resource Group

Davey conducted a prescribed burn on portions of the Waukegan Dunal Area on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The burn

plan consists of two (2) areas - one south of and one north of the North Shore Sanitary District property. All winds need to go towards the lake during burns. Due to numerous wind shifts this spring they were unable to complete burning the full project area. The window for burning is over for this spring, but Davey will try again in the fall.

Remaining to be done is the seeding of the areas-previously herbicided for crown vetch, and planting native plugs on the swimming beach buffer area.

**Inter Coastal Development of the Great Lakes – Delta Institute, Bill Schleizer**

Delta works in partnership with businesses, communities, and governments to make positive environmental change in the Great Lakes Regions. The work includes implementing conservation practices in agriculture, creating strategies to remediate and reuse Brownfield sites and vacant properties, and creating and use of green infrastructure in urban planning.

Delta has been working with the Waukegan Harbor CAG and the Lake Michigan Forum since 1998 – they provide the link between community stakeholders and the USEPA on the Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan. This year they are launching the “Love Lake Michigan” campaign. The goal is to see what people really love about the lake.

They are also conducting Brownfield work in abandoned and vacant properties. An inventory of a community’s brownfields is created and opportunities for economic development for site re-utilization are developed. Little Village in the Pilsen area of Chicago is an area in which they are working on this particular project.

Delta would like to bring this evaluation to Lake County Brownfields. Delta will work with Waukegan, North Chicago, and 3 other communities. This is a big project that can have huge community input!

**Questions**

*Are you working with both the public and private sectors? Yes.*

*When you say abandoned and vacant, how do you determine that?*

We will leave it up to communities to make the determination.

*Can we change the designation from brownfield?*

We have to look at level of contamination and then see what can be done.

**Lake Baikal – Waukegan Harbor CAG**

Dr. Elena Kuzevanova returned this spring to complete follow up work initiated on her visit here last fall. Included in the agenda were site visits to the Eco Science Center and Aquarium in Burlington, VT. on Lake Champlain; to the greatly expanding Environmental Science Department of Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; to the Great Lakes Water Resource Institute in Milwaukee, Wis., as well as the Delta Institute in Chicago and presentations to the Chicago Wilderness North Chicago-Waukegan Leave No Child Inside group.

These visits were very informative and have opened up potential partnership and internship opportunities for both the Waukegan Harbor CAG and our Lake Baikal partners! Dr. Kusevanova reported that last summer over 1.5 million people visited Lake Baikal. Most visitors were from Russia, China, and Japan. There is basically only one city on the shores of Lake Baikal initially receiving the incoming visitors, and it has a population of 17,000. There simply is not enough infrastructure to handle

all those visitors, and Dr. Kusevanova is very concerned about this. They are looking at what we are doing to handle our annual visitors in both small and large communities around the Great Lakes, and are very grateful for all of our help!

### **Citizen Scientists**

There is a growing support for Waukegan groups and citizens to get involved in citizen science. Bird watching, dragonflies, squirrels, and frogs are just some examples of monitoring efforts. The CAG continues to seek out and share opportunities for Citizen Science in coordination with Chicago Wilderness and the Waukegan Park District.

### **Waukegan Swimming Beach-Eco-Ambassadors**

The Waukegan Park District, Cool Learning Experience, and Lake Forest Openlands will be working with students and interns on an exciting project focused on the shoreline. These “Eco-Ambassadors” groups will work on trash pick-up and public education and outreach at the Waukegan Swimming Beach. Eco-Ambassador interns will be out with the beach wearing Eco-Ambassador T-shirts throughout the summer!

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Live Green**

The Live Green event was held on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The weather was quite damp and chilly this year. About 300 people were in attendance. The Waukegan Park District and the exhibitor’s did an outstanding job, and those in attendance said it was well worth coming. Joe Hmieleski provided a hands on unit on water testing for a nonstop line of eager participants on behalf of the Waukegan Harbor CAG. with guests. Thank you to the Waukegan Park District for running the event, and to all the local citizens who attended!

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership**

The Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership would like to invite everyone to their upcoming Bilingual programs on local Invasive Species of concern in Waukegan during the month of May.

## **ADDITIONS**

### **Libertyville Open Space Planting Event – Lake County Audubon**

Paul Geiselhart would like to share a volunteer opportunity – 200 bushes and trees will be planted in the Libertyville Open Space District on May 31, at 3:00 p.m. Please contact him if you are interested in helping out! They are also looking for used binoculars and bird books.

### **Coal Ash Regulation Hearings-IEPA**

IEPA has proposed new rules for coal ash disposal and management. A number of individuals from Waukegan came down to the hearings in Chicago to testify-

### **Questions:**

*Are there issues with Midwest Generation?*

NRG Energy, formerly Midwest Generation explained there was no ash in the Midwest Generation

ponds, and noted the ponds are lined. Ash is removed every year.

*Are coal ash and fly ash the same?* No. Coal ash is the bottom ash, fly ash is gathered.

### **Harbor Maintenance Fund - Small and Medium Harbors –**

Word was just received that the Joint Conference Committee of the US House and Senate has reached an agreement on the Water Resource Development Act known as WRDA. An announcement will be made in the coming days on the exact compromise content of WRDA.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Claudia Freeman and seconded by Harvey Sheldon. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:09 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  
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  
Sierra Club - Lake County Chapter*

### **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.