



Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297

Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the June 19, 2012, CAG meeting held at Lilac Cottage, Waukegan Park District, Waukegan respectfully submitted by Thomas Chefalo, acting as Recording Secretary of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group.

The June, 2014, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Susie Schreiber.

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

Attendance at the June 19, 2014 CAG Meeting:

Brad Benning	USEPA
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Bob Chmielecki	Concerned Citizen
Andrea Danks	People's Energy/North Shore Gas
Mary Ross Cunningham	Lake County Board 9th
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Stephanie Harmon	USEPA
Bill Lebensorger	GLRI Grant Administrator
Heriberto León	USEPA
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Steven Matuszak	People's Energy/North Shore Gas
Lisa May	Waukegan 7 th Ward
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Mike Prusila	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Ania Ruszaj	IDNR
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Susie Schreiber	Waukegan Harbor CAG
Barbara Waller	Concerned Citizen – First Baptist Church
Jake Warsaw	US Representative Schneider

GUESTS:

Laura Bowles	CAG summer intern
Rosemary Heilemann	League of Women Voters – Lake County
Julie Clark	CH2M Hill
Nicky Obenauf	Davey Resource Group
Lora Roberts	Concerned Citizen
Cheryl Vaccarello	Tetrattech – USEPA contractor

AGENDA

There were no additions made to the agenda.

MINUTES

The February, March and April 2014 minutes were approved.

February – Motion: Larry Brewer and Second: Paul Geiselhart

March – Motion: Larry Brewer and Second: Bob Chmielewski

April – Motion: Paul Geiselhart and Second: Larry Brewer

UPDATES

USEPA – Heriberto León

Johns Manville

Filling over the geotextile at the Industrial Canal continues. The Pumping Lagoon has been filled with clay over a geotextile. The clay is from the on-site clay stockpiles.

OMC Site

Work continues on the consolidation covering. The work also continues on building the water treatment plant to handle the water from the consolidation facility, the dye cast cell and the west cell. Groundwater treatment continues with the injection of sodium permanganate to break down the trichloroethylene. Mobilization at the old dye cast cell is beginning this week. Excavation of the contamination soil and concrete around the Triax building also continues with off-site disposal. September 30, 2014, is the target date for the completion of construction.

Community Involvement Interviews

The USEPA is updating and combining the Community Involvement plans for each of the harbor Superfund sites into one document. They have been interviewing community leaders and residents. The interviews will be conducted through the end of the week. The objective of community involvement is to involve the public in activities and decisions related to the cleanup of sites. The community involvement program promotes two-way communication between members of the public and EPA.

US ARMY CORP of ENGINEERS – Susie Schreiber

The Army Corp is placing large rocks against the breakwater at the mouth of the harbor in order to fortify the structure.

IDNR – Ania Ruszaj

Draft Waukegan Harbor AOC Expanded Study Area Habitat Management Plan

The IDNR is still accepting comments on the draft plan. It is available on the CAG website under the Reports and Studies tab.

IEPA

No updates were presented at this meeting.

CITY OF WAUKEGAN

No updates were presented at this meeting.

CAG BUSINESS

The Water Resources Reform & Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA) – Susie Schreiber

After its overwhelming approval in the House (412-4) and Senate (91-7) the President signed WRRDA on Tuesday, June 10th 2014.

The WRRDA calls for increased spending from the annual Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) revenue (presently \$1.6 billion)—increasing spending of the HMT from the present 50% to 67% in 2015, and 100% by 2025. It designates that the Great Lakes be budgeted as a single, integrated navigation system encompassing all its waterways and harbors—the Great Lakes Navigation System (GLNS). WRRDA stipulates that 10% of all the funding increases are to be spent in the Great Lakes—an increase of approximately \$22 million in FY2015 and \$75 million by 2025 (over the present \$85 million or so).

Further, WRRDA states that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Army Secretary shall make expenditures to pay for operation and maintenance costs based on an equitable allocation of funds among all such harbors. In addition, the Secretary shall not allocate funds based solely on the tonnage transmitting through a harbor (this contrasts to the present approach of prioritizing based on annual tonnage). It also states that the Secretary shall manage all of the individually authorized projects in the Great Lakes Navigation System as components of a single, comprehensive system.

To summarize, there is no language in WRRDA that specifically authorizes or guarantees funding for recreational or smaller commercial harbors. The provisions above, however, provide a substantially greater probability that sufficient funds are authorized to at least keep all federally authorized small commercial and recreational harbors maintained. The only way to know for sure is to follow-up on the interpretation and proposed actions of the congressional appropriators and the Army Corps. Each harbor community should review the Corps' fact sheet for their harbor and make input/revisions that show the economic impact to the community if the federal channel becomes closed to boating traffic. If one adds up the impact on marinas, restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, home values, the tax base, school, etc. it will demonstrate to the Corps the economic benefit of maintaining your federal harbor.

Eco-Ambassadors – Susie Schreiber

The Waukegan Beach Eco-Ambassadors concept initially originated with the First Baptist Church of Waukegan Cool Learning Experience. This year interns from the Lake Forest Open Lands Center for Conservation Leadership are working with Waukegan on trash maintenance at the Waukegan swimming beach and dunal areas to the north. The interns along with 8 interns from the Waukegan Park District and students from the Cool Learning Experience are part of a

systematic and well planned beach maintenance program. They are all students from local schools.

The Eco-Ambassadors will also monitor trash barrels to determine usage patterns, conduct a gull counts, monitoring of Plants of Concern, frog monitoring, and receive GPS equipment training. They will also observe with the banding of the peregrine falcons that nest at the Waukegan power plant.

The Eco-Ambassadors wear tee shirts that identify them as such and will be available to answer question beach patrons may have about the beach and Lake Michigan.

Raptor Demonstration – Susie Schreiber

The Raptor Rehabilitation Center from Decatur held a well-attended and informative raptor demonstration in May hosted by the Waukegan Park District at the Belvidere Recreation Center. The program was funded through the Waukegan Harbor CAG Great Lake Restoration Initiative grant.

NRG - Energy Peregrine Falcon Banding – Susie Schreiber

Four young peregrine falcons were banded at the power plant. Three of them, Leonardo, Chloe and Chicky, were parented by Gregg and Patsy. The fourth, Twilight, was introduced into the nest after it was abandoned by its parents in St. Louis, MO area and brought up to Waukegan through the efforts of the Field Museum Peregrine Falcon project. They were about 28 days old at the time of the banding and would be fledging very soon.

A review of the material found in the nesting box indicated that the falcons have been feeding on pigeons, blue jays, cardinals and gulls.

The Eco-Ambassadors observed and photographed the banding, and are making a PowerPoint presentation on the event.

Delta Institute – Lake Michigan Forum – Susie Schreiber

The Delta Institute and the Lake Michigan Forum have joined forces to create a branding campaign utilizing the hashtag #LoveLakeMichigan and a website <http://lovelakemichigan.org>. The initiative has been partially funded by the US EPA. People are encouraged to post photos of their favorite Lake Michigan location, and post it to the LoveLakeMichigan website or their favorite social media site.

Citizen Scientists – Susie Schreiber

Bowen neighbors are documenting the Glen Flora Ravine and the plants, birds and other animals that make their home or nest, feed in and visit the ravine.

Glen Flora Culvert Failure – Susie Schreiber

The eastern edge of Sheridan Rd. and the sidewalk above the culvert over the Glen Flora Ravine has begun to fail. Congressman Schneider's office has been in contact with State officials about the problem.

Tar Odor – Brad Benning, USEPA

There have been complaints about a strong tar odor in the residential neighborhoods just west of the former North Shore Gas coal gasification site. It is associated with the remediation activities at the site.

The USEPA removed tar from and covered the site about 15 years ago. Geo Solutions is currently removing additional contaminated soil from the site. They have been applying a cherry scented deodorant to mask the tar smell in the air that was released from tar pockets that are exposed during the remediation process. They are also stockpiling, misting and covering the soils to reduce the release of the odor.

The contaminated soil is being hauled to the Countryside landfill in Grayslake. In addition, Geo Solutions constructed a water treatment facility on the site to remove contaminants from ground water before it is released to surface drainage. Geo Solutions is also removing the remaining tar from the site that is located in the adjacent railroad right-of-way.

Geo Solutions is stabilizing some of the contaminated soil with a “concrete”. The process involves auguring down into the soil to a depth of 25 feet just groundwater level and applying the stabilization medium to the contaminated soils.

A total of 57,000 cubic yards of material have been landfilled. An additional 250,000 cubic yards of material has been stabilized and it is anticipated that the total number will reach 290,000 cubic yards when the remediation work is completed. When the soil work is complete, the site will be covered and seeded with preferred seed list species approved by IDNR – Natural Heritage Division and the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

Stabilization work should be completed in August and restoration in September.

Watersheds and Hydrology of the Shore Line – Mike Prusila

Lake County is divided in to 26 watersheds including the Dead River watershed located along Lake Michigan. Waukegan Harbor is located in the Dead River watershed though surface water in the harbor area does not drain directly into the Dead River.

In the past, the Lake Michigan coastline was located much further to the west than it is currently located. During the last ice age the glaciers deposited the Highland Park moraine, the western boundary of the watershed, and an area of glacial deposits that run from about Greenbay Rd. to the lake. The bluff line above the harbor was cut by lake water wave action. Subsequently, the area below the bluff filled with sediments and the lake plain was formed. In addition, fill was added to the plain to create the area adjacent to the harbor. Because the plain is so flat, it is said to have a “deranged” drainage pattern. Human activity has significantly modified the surface hydrology of the lake plain.

According to USGS maps, as recently as 1908 in the southern Dead River watershed a water feature named the Little Dead River was in still in existence. It was destroyed by development. The Dead River is a good model for the Little Dead River; it meanders across the lake plain and is not always connected to the lake.

Now the area in which the Little Dead River was located is a series of wetlands and channelized streams that have degraded water quality due to the introduction of storm sewer runoff in the system. High gradient streams and the storm sewer network send significant flow in to the wetlands and the wetlands can be considered part of the storm sewer system. This runoff is the result of the development of the storm sewer system and extensive impervious surface the above the bluff.

A 2010 study, funded by the CAG, monitoring water flow out of the Glen Flora Ravine and Ganster Ravines was conducted in order to evaluate the volume of water released by the ravines and its impact on any restoration projects east of the Glen Flora Ravine.

It had been expected to find that water flowed both north and south into the coastal plain once it left the Glen Flora Ravine; however there was little evidence that water flowed south.

Flow from the Glen Flora Ravine moves north and combines with flow from the Ganster Ravine and then moves along the railroad tracks flowing onto the Johns Manville site where it is drained by the storm water diversion system into the lake.

It was also established that more water drains from the ravines than ultimately empties into the lake. The wetlands absorb a significant amount of the water and it filters into the ground water. The wetlands contribute to the conveyance of storm water.

It is not known how the work at the Johns Manville site will impact the flow of surface water. The borrow pit will not be filled. Water flows from the pit to the storm water conveyance system on the site. The system is likely to remain in place.

The CAG hopes that it would be possible to study the area south of Greenwood Ave. in order to determine how storm water that drains off the bluff is conveyed by the surface hydrology in that area of the lake plain.

League of Women Voters Stormwater from the Ground Up Program – Rosemary Heilemann, League of Women Voters – Lake County

The League of Women Voters - Illinois, the League of Women Voters - Lake County, and Faith in Place are co-sponsoring two presentations of “Stormwater from the Ground Up.” This program provides information for homeowners, business people, and community leaders about how to prevent the damage and pollution caused by storm water runoff and flooding. The League of Women Voters - Illinois and the League of Women Voters - Lake Michigan Region (LWV - LMR) received a grant from the Illinois Coastal Management Program of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to research and develop a program on the topic of reducing pollution of Lake Michigan, and reducing the danger and damage caused by flooding.

Wednesday, July 9, 2014
10:00 - 11:45 a.m.
Waukegan Township Park Place
414 S. Lewis Ave., Waukegan, IL

Thursday, July 31, 2014
5:15 - 7:00 p.m.
Waukegan Public Library
128 N. County St., Waukegan, IL

Monarch Butterflies – Susie Schreiber

Susie introduced a monarch butterfly caterpillar she raised from an egg. She fed it milkweed leaves from her yard; it was expected to enter the chrysalis stage soon. It was introduced to segue into a discussion of the Faith in Place initiative to establish Monarch Butterfly Way Stations at many churches and public facilities in Waukegan. It takes five generation of butterflies to make their way from the northern Midwest to the mountains of Mexico and return. Butterfly larva feed only on milkweed. Unfortunately, available stands of common milkweed have decreased significantly in area over the past several decades. Way Stations of milkweed provide a refugee and feeding site for the butterfly larva. Way Stations can be planted anywhere in a variety of soils. There are 19 milkweed species native to Illinois.

US Army Corp of Engineers - dredging of the Approach Channel – Susie Schreiber

The Army Corp is dividing dredging of the approach channel between 2014 and 2015. The Corp continues to work with the City of Waukegan and the Waukegan Port Authority on a sand management plan for the harbor area.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

IDNR Grant Opportunity for Waukegan

The IDNR is working with Waukegan to develop a grant submission proposal. Waukegan and the IDNR are looking for suggestions from the community. Suggestions can be sent to Waukegan Alderman May or Diane Tedic of the IDNR by June 28th.

Announcements

The Waukegan Harbor CAG signed contracts for benthic studies to be conducted in the Glen Flora Ravine and hydrated interdunal areas on the lake front north of the swimming beach.

Adjournment

Claudia Freeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Bob Chmielecki. The meeting was adjourned by voice vote.

Web Sites

<http://www.waukeganharborcag.org>

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/environmental-justice>
<http://www.ilenviro.org>

<http://www.glc.org>
<http://www.binational.net>

<http://www.lkmichiganforum.org/>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakemich>
<http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/index.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/lakemich>
<http://www.cciw.solec>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec>
<http://www.gvsu.edu/wri>

<http://www.epa.gov/OST/GLI/glimixqa.html>

<http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/pubs/brochures/wlevels/wlevels.html>

<http://www.sph.umich.edu/ehs/umaql/mass.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lmmb>
<http://biology.usgs.gov/S+t/noframe/x186.html>

The Waukegan CAG website.

Illinois EPA – Environmental Justice website.
Good listing of all environmental bills in the ILL House & Senate.

Great Lakes Commission.
Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy – 2002 Annual Progress Report
The Lake Michigan Forum
Lake Michigan Lake Wide Management Plan (LaMP 2000)
Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council
Lake Michigan Sensitive Areas

State of the Great Lakes – SOLEC 2002 full report.
Annis Water Resources Institute

A document on Bioaccumulative Chemicals of Concern (BCCs).

Great Lakes Water Levels
Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study
Lake Michigan Mass Balance
Zebra Mussels in Southwestern Lake Michigan

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
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*