



## Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297  
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

**Minutes of the July 17, 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 July 17, 2014, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:09 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 July 17, 2014 CAG Meeting:

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Penny Bouchard</b>    | Concerned Citizen                            |
| <b>Larry Brewer</b>      | Concerned Citizen                            |
| <b>Tom Chefalo</b>       | Lake County Planning, Building & Development |
| <b>Matthew Child</b>     | International Joint Commission               |
| <b>Barbara Cornew</b>    | US Representative Schneider's Office         |
| <b>Lisa Luhrs Draper</b> | Concerned Citizen                            |
| <b>Natalie Dutack</b>    | GLRI Quality Assurance Manager               |
| <b>Claudia Freeman</b>   | Waukegan Park District                       |
| <b>Felipe Garcia</b>     | National Gypsum                              |
| <b>Paul Geiselhart</b>   | Lake County Audubon                          |
| <b>Bill Lebensorger</b>  | GLRI Grant Administrator                     |
| <b>Heriberto León</b>    | USEPA  |
| <b>John Legge</b>        | IDNR   |
| <b>Brian O'Dell</b>      | Waukegan Port District                       |
| <b>John Ohl</b>          | Salmon Unlimited                             |
| <b>Ania Ruzaj</b>        | IDNR   |
| <b>Sharon Sandoval</b>   | North Shore Sanitary District                |
| <b>Susie Schreiber</b>   | Waukegan Harbor CAG                          |
| <b>Jorge Torres</b>      | Waukegan Port District                       |
| <b>Fred Veenbaas</b>     | NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station                   |
| <b>Barbara Waller</b>    | Concerned Citizen – First Baptist Church     |

### GUESTS:

|                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Oscar Cornejo</b>      | CAG summer Intern                    |
| <b>Christine Custer</b>   | USGS                                 |
| <b>Thomas Custer</b>      | USGS                                 |
| <b>Fred Henry</b>         | Concerned Citizen                    |
| <b>Rosemary Heilemann</b> | League of Women Voters – Lake County |
| <b>Charlie Hoffman</b>    | Lake Forest Open Lands               |

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Susan Hoffman</b>        | Lake Forest Open Lands                 |
| <b>Todd Degner</b>          | Davey Resource Group                   |
| <b>David Johannesen</b>     | Concerned Citizen – James Anderson Co. |
| <b>Christine Nannicelli</b> | Sierra Club - National                 |
| <b>Steven Nelson</b>        | CAG summer Intern                      |
| <b>Alexander Porcayo</b>    | CAG summer Intern                      |

### **AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

### **MINUTES**

The June Minutes require an edit in the attendance list, and the member list corrected to include the Sierra Club. A motion to approve the June minutes, with these edits/corrections, was passed.

Corrections to the May minutes were submitted by the Waukegan School District's attorney. A motion to approve the May minutes with these Waukegan School District's corrections was carried. Both sets of minutes will be posted on the Waukegan Harbor CAG Website.

### **UPDATES**

#### **USEPA**

##### ***North Shore Gas - North Plant***

Field work at the site has been completed, and quarterly groundwater data is being collected at this time. A draft Remedial Investigation (RI) report is expected within a year.

##### ***North Shore Gas - South Plant***

The USEPA continues to review the feasibility study report. The report describes the various cleanup alternatives to address the risks posed by contaminated soil, groundwater, and soil vapors at the site. The USEPA and the North Shore Gas are meeting in early August to review-all comments.

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

Construction activities continue on the north side of the site at both the Pumping Lagoon and Industrial Canal. A geotextile liner was pulled across the Pumping Lagoon and the Industrial Canal before filling activities began. The Pumping Lagoon has been filled with clay from on-site stockpiles. Fill material is being removed from the central portion of the manufacturing area and the southwestern site area to fill the Industrial Canal.

Once filling is has been completed, clean cover materials will be placed over the site. It will be seeded with native vegetation recommended by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and members of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group GLRI Technical Team. A berm is being constructed between the Illinois Beach State Park Nature Preserve and the Industrial Canal. New groundwater monitoring wells will then be installed and sampled.

Ambient air monitoring results collected during on-site soil excavation and unloading activities in June 2014 at the Johns Manville property show that no asbestos fibers were detected. Samples were collected from eight ambient air monitoring stations located near work areas, and two monitoring stations located at the western and southern property boundaries, in accordance with monitoring

protocols approved by the USEPA. Additional construction activities are planned for the remainder of 2014 and are expected to be completed by early 2016.

Johns Manville will have a lot of updates and new graphics for the fall meetings.

#### Question

*How big is the berm on the north side of the Industrial Canal? There has been concern that water from the site would flow into Illinois Beach State Park.*

The answer was provided via email by Heriberto León - (USEPA - Communications) and Matt Ohl – (USEPA JM Project Manager) after the meeting: The berm is designed to contain surface water within the Industrial Canal and provide an access road for construction equipment during backfilling. It will average about 6 ft. high and 25 ft. wide.

#### ***Yeoman Creek***

The Yeoman Creek Remediation Group is preparing the design for the Phase II measures—which include vapor extraction and air sparging—for the USEPA to review. After the approval process is completed, USEPA expects the Phase II measures will be implemented in 2015.

#### ***IDNR***

The IDNR has been working on the Illinois Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program (CNPCP). There are public meetings coming up to present and discuss the CNPCP, and there is a short executive summary of the CNPCP document online. For those interested in reading the whole report, the original 312 page document is also available online and is broken down into individual chapters. The IDNR is asking for reviews of the report. There is a survey you can use to submit comments until July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 on the Waukegan Harbor CAG website under announcements.

#### Question

*Can the date to review be extended to the end of the month?*

We cannot extend the date, but we will be happy to accept comments after the deadline.

#### ***City of Waukegan***

No report.

#### ***Waukegan Port District***

The City of Waukegan is applying for a \$50,000 grant under IDNR. The grant requires a 50% match, and the match is coming from:

- The Waukegan Port District: \$5,000
- The Waukegan Park District: \$10,000
- The City of Waukegan: \$10,000

The City of Waukegan is asking if the Waukegan Harbor CAG can help funding the project with additional dollar funds in addition to the above noted match.

The Waukegan Harbor CAG cannot match federal funds with federal funds which would mean money from the CAG GLRI grant cannot be used. The question is: Can we *contribute anything in addition to the match*? From IDNR's perspective, additional funds from the GLRI would not be considered as a match,

but we have to be sure. The CAG will look into the request and follow up with the City of Waukegan.

Question

*Were you saying you have the full amount of required match?*

Yes.-We are asking the CAG for additional funds that exceed the required match.

**CAG BUSINESS**

**International Joint Commission – Matthew Child**

There are hundreds of watersheds crossing the international boundary between the United States and Canada. The International Joint Commission (IJC), under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 signed by Pres. Theodore Roosevelt, has worked for many decades on water quantity and quality concerns of the two countries and the tribal nations. The work led to the signing of Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement – 1972 - to manage this shared fresh water resource. See below:

[www.ijc.org/en/\\_/Great\\_Lakes\\_Water\\_Quality](http://www.ijc.org/en/_/Great_Lakes_Water_Quality)

RECOGNIZING that the Agreement between Canada and the United States of America on Great Lakes Water Quality, 1978, done at Ottawa on 22 November 1978, as amended on October 16, 1983 and on November 18, 1987 (the "1978 Agreement") and its predecessor, the Agreement between Canada and the United States of America on Great Lakes Water Quality, done at Ottawa on 15 April 1972, provide a vital framework for binational consultation and cooperative action to restore, protect and enhance the water quality of the Great Lakes to promote the ecological health of the Great Lakes basin; - See more at: [http://www.ijc.org/en/\\_/Great\\_Lakes\\_Water\\_Quality#sthash.lz41L7Y5.dpuf](http://www.ijc.org/en/_/Great_Lakes_Water_Quality#sthash.lz41L7Y5.dpuf)

Every two years the IJC reports to the government's of Canada and the United States on current strategies and plans. By the 1980's they recognized that there were hotspots, or Areas of Concern (AOCs), around the Great Lakes. The Water Quality Board of the IJC recommended special attention for them. The AOCs find a home in an Annex to the Water Quality Agreement.

The IJC watches the progress of the individual AOCs, through appropriate reports submitted during the site clean-up process. The IJC likes to come out to AOCs nearing completion of cleanup and restoration activities. The IJC gives their congratulations on the progress of clean up at the Waukegan Harbor AOC and Extended AOC. The IJC-looks forward to learning more as things develop over the next two years.

**Eco Ambassador**

The Eco Ambassador program involves Junior High, High School, and College students working through the Waukegan Harbor CAG, Lake Forest Open Lands – Center for Conservation Leadership and Cool Learning Experience. Our 2014 Waukegan Harbor CAG Interns are here to give us a review of their work and experiences.

Alex Porcayo – The summer research internships opened doors and-expanded my mind on possible job opportunities. One significant event was the tour of the NRG power plant. We learned about the combustion process and converting coal to energy. NRG put a lot of money in making it more eco-friendly, and only 5% of coal dust is left from the whole process. We saw the Peregrine Falcon banding at NRG as well. What was shocking was how loud the babies were during the banding. (named: Twilight, Chicky, Leo, and Chloe)! For the internship, it's not just the work, it's the experience.

Oscar Cornejo – We work with Dave Motley from the City of Waukegan, on trash management in the

mornings. We cover the lakefront picnic areas, shoreline, and all over the beach. Trash has gone down – we are just getting cigarette butts, straws, and bottle caps now. This may be because of the weather. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was the worst - the garbage cans were overflowing, and trash was flying everywhere. There were volunteers helping to clean up on the morning of July 5<sup>th</sup>, but those trash cans can't handle large events. The garbage situation is really inefficient. It's important to realize how the trash affects the harbor. It is all a complex system. I am glad to be a part of the internship!

It was noted-the trash cans are emptied infrequently. The interns are only allowed to take the overflow. Oscar described how full cans fill with "garbage juice" after it rains. This "juice" sits in the trash cans attracting undesirable insects and animals,-creating a health issue that needs to be addressed right now!

Steven Nelson – We work on Plants of Concern with Chicago Botanic Garden finding native plants that are endangered or threatened. We are working to maintain the populations and see if they are growing or decreasing. All the species are very tiny - they are sedges (which have edges). It is important to get the invasive species out so they are not taking over the habitat. It is exciting to know the plants are out here, and that we can save the populations.

Susie Hoffman – Director of the Center for Conservation Leadership, thanked the Waukegan Harbor CAG for having the interns here this summer. They have spent a long time learning about conservation and have done a great job!

It was noted that there is a nice article in the local newspaper about the Peregrine Falcons and the interns!

#### Question

*What do you (interns) think about the Big Belly garbage cans?*

They are working better. The others are old and rusty, they leak, and the bags fly out.

*Have any of the members of the public come up?*

Only one so far.

#### **NRG Energy**

There was an injured American Kestrel on the NRG property yesterday. Susie Schreiber and Eco Ambassador intern Oscar Cornejo took it to Barn Swallow, a wild bird rehabilitation facility in Wauconda, IL. Transporting it involved a lot of Scotch tape and two cardboard boxes. Oscar shared with the Waukegan Harbor CAG the experience at Barn Swallow watching owner Linda Breuer carefully examining the injured kestrel, and then feeding other rescued baby birds with a syringe.

We learned that the wing joint on the kestrel is destroyed and it will never fly again. Currently it is eating (quail) and already has an adoptive family lined up!

#### **Effects of Contaminants of Tree Swallow Populations – Tom and Chris Custer, USGS**

Tom and Chris have been doing research with the federal government since the 1970s. In the mid 1990's they switched their focus from colonial water birds to swallows. Their swallow monitoring efforts are known as: Project 80.

Why use tree swallows? They feed on benthic invertebrates which have close ties to sediment contamination. Nest boxes are located at areas of interest and provide an adequate sample size – the birds almost always show up at nest boxes. There are numerous sampling points, and they are very

efficient to sample. Swallows also are localized feeders (+-.5 km to the nest box). If there are contaminants in sediments, the benthos will take it in, then the bird takes it in, and it shows up in the eggs. Then both male and the female swallows continue to gather more benthos to feed the babies.

We have three objectives – (1) To assist states and the USEPA with Wildlife BUIs (Beneficial Use Impairments); (2) Evaluate remedy effectiveness and; (3) Enhance our understanding of contaminant effects.

*BUI Assessment:*

- Bird or Animal Deformities: The bird embryo is sensitive (direct toxicity). There can be physical issues like bill deformity, as well as behavioral issues. For example, accumulated toxins can interfere with hormones in female swallows, leading to birds abandoning nests.
- Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations: If reproductive issues are serious enough, it can lead to population problems.

When evidence of toxins is found, we look at tissue concentration levels and compare those to concentration levels known to cause direct effects in the lab. We also directly measure reproductive rates and look at other effect endpoints

*Remedy Effectiveness and Understanding Contaminant Effects:*

- Before and after assessments of swallow populations are made in sites that are being remediated.
- The strength of Project 80 is that we are sampling the same material across all AOCs. This allows for better assessments and understanding of contaminant exposures.
- Benchmarks for effects are available for birds so we can interpret our results.

*Waukegan Harbor AOC Results:*

We started our work in 2010 and added Waukegan Harbor to the sampling area in 2012. Sampling includes 27 AOCs and nearby areas for comparison. Thank you to LaFarge and National Gypsum for letting us put boxes on their sites. We put up 20 nest boxes, monitor them weekly, and collect samples at appropriate times. Analytical chemistry is done by a lab in Canada. We monitored nest boxes in 2012 (3 boxes), 2013 (4 boxes), and 2014 (5 boxes).

**PCBs:** PCBs were banned in 1973, but they are stable and are persisting in the environment. They get stored in the fat of the birds and creatures that eat them. Waukegan has a high concentration of PCBs in the swallow eggs tested. In fact, Waukegan is the most contaminated of all the AOCs. A small portion of the eggs in Waukegan could have development/toxicity issues. However, it is important to remember that these results are from samples collected prior to the completion of dredging. More results are forthcoming.

**PAHs:** PAHs are metabolized very quickly. They come from the incomplete combustion of products that are burned like coal, cigarettes, fires, etc. We have to look at genetic damage to determine PAH concentrations. If there is DNA damage, there are bigger than normal chromosomes. These represent as shorter and fatter. A healthy chromosome is tall and skinny. Waukegan has chromosome damage beyond the normal range. But, Waukegan is lower in Dioxins and furans, which Chris considers worse than PCBs, as well as perfluorinated chemicals.

For 2014 we collected Barn Swallow eggs from under the docks and are looking to compare the two species. This also enables us to have a bigger sample size. We can assess to see if the two species are operating the same, and we may be able to substitute them for each other. We would like to expand the

study area north and south of the harbor for 2015.

For more information please visit:

[www.umesc.usgs.gov/wildlife\\_toxicology/glri\\_project80.html](http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/wildlife_toxicology/glri_project80.html)

### Questions

*Do the swallows reuse the nest or rebuild them?*

A lot of times they will patch together and reuse nests. They will come back to the same box or the location.

*The bill deformities looked like selenium, why? I thought that was only out west.*

It could be many things – vitamin deficiencies, for example, also lead to bill deformities.

*What's average lifespan of a tree swallow?*

Three years or so. Five years is considered really old.

*Do multiple generations come back to the same spot?*

No, they tend to disperse out.

*Do you track generational anomalies?*

No, some swallows never come back so it's not an effective tool.

### **Citizen Scientists**

Thirty-two students and four teams are going under the docks at the Recreational Harbor to count swallow nests tomorrow. This is part of our Citizen Science programs. We will be working with Chicago Wilderness – North Chicago/Waukegan Leave No Child Inside on this project. Students from the Center for Conservation Leadership, Waukegan Jr. Fleet and Cool Learning Experience will be participating. Tim Drexler, USEPA Project manager for the OMC (Outboard Marine) site, will be giving a presentation to the students during lunch at the Waukegan Yacht Club on the progress of the OMC Superfund cleanup. This will be followed by a lakefront site overview for the CCL Students by the CAG interns.

### **Love Lake Michigan Campaign – Lake Michigan Forum and Delta Institute**

The Love Lake Michigan logo is on our Eco Ambassador t-shirts. You can see our interns and Eco-Ambassadors wearing them on the docks tomorrow!

### **OMC Superfund Site – Email Update from Tim Drexler**

The consolidation facility cover work continues with completion planned for early August. The replacement water treatment plant for the consolidation facility/west cell/ODC cell is still under construction. Completion for this project is also planned for early August, 2014.

Construction of the Old Die Cast building cell began last week and completion is planned for late September. Soil excavation continues with a planned mid-August completion. The in-situ groundwater treatment was completed last week, and sampling of the groundwater is planned in one month to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment.

There is a lot of vehicle traffic right now. Hopefully by the end of September we will see a reduction.

### Question

*Are they still bringing up revetment rock?*

This is not the USEPA. A private contractor is doing shore work. They are loading it in Waukegan and taking it south.

### **Waukegan Harbor USACE Dredging Update**

This update will wait until the September 2014 meeting.

### **Waukegan Harbor Extended AOC**

We have the habitat management recommendations and reported back to IDNR. The document has been reduced down to forty-one pages. There are still a couple of areas that need updating and correcting. Notably, the document describes the area south of Waukegan River as “light industry”, but there were coking sites, steel mills, tanneries and more in that area. This is heavy industry, not light.

The document is very readable and easy to understand. The maps will be updated for the final draft. We need to get all comments to IDNR in the next week.

It was noted that there is more cooperation between property owners. The Eco Ambassador Interns were invited to give feedback, as they are citizens. We need to look at how to mix recreational needs with habitat needs.

### **Question**

*What is the date you need everything by?*

By the next meeting.

### **Monarch Butterfly Habitat**

Monarch habitat is definitely increasing in Waukegan - more have been spotted this year all over the city. The interns are also looking for good sites to recommend as butterfly gardens and monarch habitat.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **IDNR Grant – Ideas for lakefront use**

The Waukegan Lake Front committee is creating a planning document. Please send comments and ideas for lakefront use in to the Waukegan Harbor CAG website. It is equally important to make sure there are opportunities for the general public and for the large numbers of migratory birds using our lakefront areas. Both are very important.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Stormwater from the Ground Up Presentation**

The League of Women Voters thanked the CAG for promoting their Stormwater programs. One presentation is coming up on July 31, 2014 in Waukegan. We hope that some of you come and tell your friends and neighbors to join us. We ask the question - where do you send water you don't want in your community? Runoff issues are real. These presentations are thanks to a grant from Illinois Coastal Zone Program.

#### **Waukegan Harbor CAG Annual Picnic**

The Waukegan Harbor CAG Picnic will be on August 21, 2014 at the Waukegan Port District.



**Addition:**

Susie shared some surprise news from the USEPA - the BUI removal request has been approved by the USEPA. Please see the attached letter for full details. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> letter we have received.-There are only 3 BUI that remain!

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Penny Bouchard, and seconded by Claudia Freeman. 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  
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.