



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the October 16, 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 October 16, 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 that they represent.

Attendance at the October 16, 2014 CAG Meeting:

Harold Beadle	City of Waukegan Alderman 4 th
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Rosita Clarke	USEPA
Tim Drexler	USEPA
Natalie Dutack	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Bill Lebensorger	GLRI Grant Administrator
Marilyn Livingston	Johns Manville
Lisa May	City of Waukegan Alderman 7 th
Scott Myers	Johns Manville
Rich Romanek	National Gypsum
Ania Ruszaj	IDNR
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Susie Schreiber	Waukegan Harbor CAG
Wayne Schimpff	Concerned Citizen
Joe Siedelmann	Waukegan Port District
Chris Tanner	Tanner Environmental
Diane Tecic	IDNR
Fred Veenbaas	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station
Barbara Waller	Concerned Citizen, First Baptist Church
Jake Warsaw	US Rep Brad Schneider
Jeffrey Zuercher	USACE – Outer Harbor Dredge

GUESTS:

Tat Ebihara	AECOM – Johns Mansville
Charlie Hoffman	Lake Forest Open Lands

David Peterson
JoAn Sabonjian

Concentric – Johns Manville
League of Women Voters

AGENDA

Addition to agenda - Tim Drexler, USEPA OMC Superfund site project manager, will give an update of the ongoing remediation work onsite.

MINUTES

No minutes were presented for approval.

UPDATES

USEPA – Rosita Clark

Note - A proposed rule is being published in the Federal Register regarding how the public is notified about superfund information. We are encouraged to review and provide comments. (Susie Schreiber)

Johns Manville Superfund Site

After a mound of sludge near the center of the canal is capped, the filling of the Industrial Canal will continue using sand containing a minimal amount of asbestos. Capping of the Former Manufacturing Area at the west side of the site is ongoing. Perimeter air monitoring results have not detected asbestos. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge to Lake Michigan is ongoing, and asbestos has not been detected to date. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is providing oversight support to the USEPA for the work.

North Shore Gas (NSG) North Plant - Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP)

Demobilization activities related to removing contaminated soil/debris is nearly complete. Another round of groundwater testing is scheduled before the end of the year. In regards to a question at the last meeting - access issues with the railroad on the eastern end of the property were resolved satisfactorily via an access agreement. Contaminated soil/debris was removed as close to the railroad property as allowed. This work is now. Whatever remaining MGP-related contamination is left underneath the railroad tracks and easement on either side of the tracks will be discussed in a future feasibility study (FS) which USEPA will review/approve.

North Shore Gas (NSG) South Plant Former MGP

The USEPA received the draft focused feasibility study report for NAPL (non-aqueous phase liquids) in late September and is currently reviewing it. The report describes the various remedy alternatives for the extensive NAPL at the site. The USEPA expects to provide feedback to the gas company in late October or November.

Yeoman Creek Landfill

On August 15, 2014 the USEPA received a response from the Yeoman Creek Remediation Group (YCRG) regarding their conditional approval (issued April 18, 2014) of the additional Phase 2 protective measures for the Terrace Nursing Home. The letter and attachments address the conditions listed in USEPA's approval letter. They provide the requested design plans, general specifications, and operational decision-making process for the Phase 2 remediation effort to address the methane gas issue. The USEPA has not yet commented or approved this submittal.

The USEPA's previous oversight contractor, Weston Solutions, completed its contractual term. Their new oversight contractor, Tetrattech, has been retained and is currently in the process of reviewing appropriate documents for technical assistance on this project. The USEPA expects to comment on the August 15th document received by the YCRG soon.

Questions

Why change contractors mid project?

Contracts last for a certain period. USPEA staff member Rosita Clarke was not sure of the specifics, but stated she will get that information.

Why would there be pollution on the east side of the North Shore Gas North plant?

It will have migrated there from the plant.

Is there contamination to the south?

Some of the reports given earlier this year showed pollution. There would have to be a site specific evaluation.

Who would be responsible?

The owner of the property would have to clean it up before they tried to sell.

OMC Site – Tim Drexler

The groundwater treatment in Operable Unit 4 is complete. USEPA is waiting for the results of the injections.

As for Waukegan Harbor (Operable Unit 1), there is only residual work remaining. The construction of the Consolidation Facility was completed at the end of September 2014. Grass is growing nicely on top of the facility.

The water treatment plant has been constructed. It is operating and taking water from the Consolidation Facility (Op Unit 1 project on Op Unit 4 site) and new West cell (Op Unit 4).

Soil remediation is complete (Op Unit 4), with the exception of the ground beneath the Triax building. Once the City of Waukegan (property owner) takes it down, the USEPA will be responsible for removing the concrete slab and dealing with any contamination underneath it.

Regarding the construction of Old Die Cast (ODC) cell – the two extraction cells have bentonite clay walls in place. They have not constructed the cap due to recent rainy conditions. At least 10 days of dry weather is needed to complete the cap. There is a man-made layer of bentonite clay which can withstand freezing and water that may be used for the cap. If weather continues to be unfavorable, this project status could hold through winter and the finalization of the work would be completed in spring 2015.

During construction of ODC cell, USEPA ran into two surprises:

- 1) There was an underground storage tank that was removed and disposed of.
- 2) A storm water drain was discovered coming from the ODC cell that connects to the City of Waukegan's storm drainage system that discharges into what is called the North Ditch (north side of Plant 2 site).

USEPA cut off the part coming from the ODC cell which contained PCBs. A special vacuum truck will be used to suck sediment out of the drainage ditch. A sediment sample was also collected from North Ditch. The results showed a relatively **low** 4 mg/kg of PCB contamination. The USEPA will take more samples and give the CAG the results of the sampling.

Questions

Does the water from Slip 3 (Op Unit 3) go there (water treatment plant)?

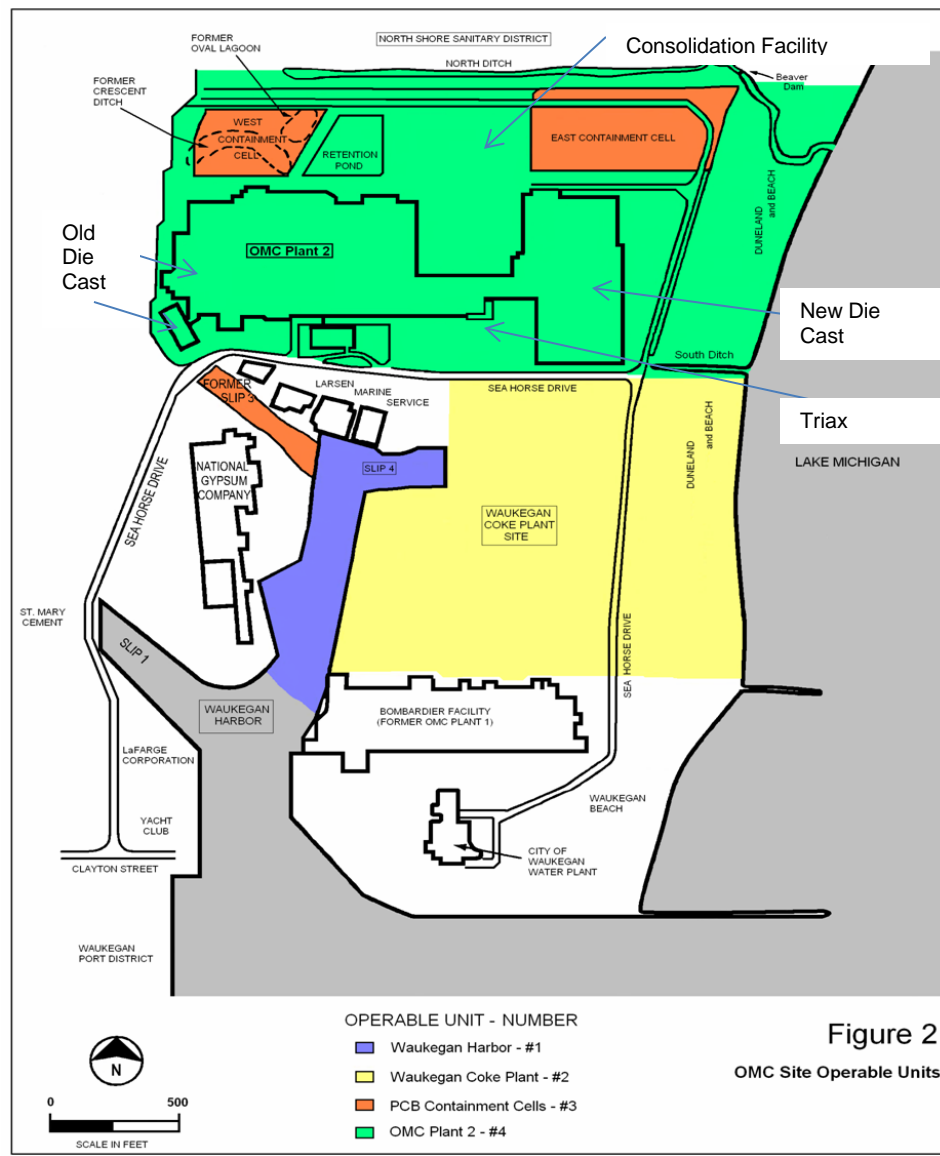
No, it has its own separate treatment unit, as does the East Containment Cell (Op Unit 3).

Did the pipe drain into the harbor?

No, it drained into the North Ditch which drains to Lake Michigan.

Why isn't the USEPA taking down the Triax building?

It's clean. The City of Waukegan might actually make money on the demolition due to the recyclability of the material.



IDNR – Diane Tecic

Announcements were made last Thursday about the next round of IDNR Coastal Grants. Two grants are coming to the greater Waukegan area. One was received by the City of Waukegan for sustainable lake shore planning, which was applied for in partnership with the Waukegan Harbor CAG. The scope of work is planning for a sustainable parking lot near the swimming beach. The other grant is a Leave No Child Inside project.

Questions

Can you explain the parking lot?

It is only for planning and design, and includes water catchment features which will improve drainage. We don't know how much it could be for the implementation, but if you are going to develop properly you need to have the infrastructure.

US Army Corps of Engineers – Susie Schreiber

The USACE has discussed the Sea Wall with the City of Waukegan and agreed to help find a diver to make an assessment of the infrastructure. This work will provide preliminary data needed for improvements. It is likely that we can find money to fund this project.

In regard to dredging - the contractor has been going through pre-construction process. Now they are just waiting for the dredge to start the approach channel. The equipment is delayed in Wisconsin, due to weather. (Note the outer harbor dredge is scheduled for the spring.)

IEPA

No updates were presented at this meeting.

City of Waukegan

No updates were presented at this meeting.

CAG BUSINESS

Site tours of Waukegan Harbor AOC and Extended AOC – Susie Schreiber

Those interested in having a full site tour of the Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern properties should put their name on the sign-up sheet being passed around the room.

Floristic Transect Monitoring – Bill Lebensorger

Floristic transects were originally developed to monitor project contractors work. Margo Milde had done two sets before her retirement. We have had another contractor come in to conduct follow up monitoring this fall. His work is almost complete.

Benthic Monitoring – GLRI Grant Finishing Up – Natalie Dutack

The Benthic Monitor, Huff and Huff, finished up their work last week. They will be putting the data together and sending us the results shortly.

Bowen Park GLRI Grant - Susie Schreiber

Final work is underway. The Expanded Buffer Area is helping to prevent rapid water runoff going down into the Glen Flora Ravine from the top of the ravine ridge. It is creating great new edge habitat and has become an amazing bird viewing area! The contractor will be putting additional seed in this fall to ensure the success of re-vegetation, and will also add an area full of plant plugs just west of the staircase to create a showcase demonstration area for visitors while we wait for the seeded area to mature over a year or two.

Informative Signage will be developed this winter for the areas we have remediated.

Chicago Wilderness Executive Committee – Susie Schreiber

The Chicago Wilderness Executive Committee had an exceptionally high quality meeting yesterday. Their focus is on oak recovery and this month is being renamed “OAKtober”. Other topics included a large carnivore workshop for management practices and monarch conservation. National Monarch Way Station areas can be created, and there are a lot lot of Citizen Science opportunities abound. We are going to fit in well with their programs. They are also making a big push on habitat for grassland birds.

Johns Manville Superfund Site – Tat Ebihara, AECOM, and JM Colleagues

From January-March 2014 we were just finalizing the “plans of attack” for the remediation, as well as agreements with the USEPA, USACE, and Weston Solutions. The goal was to fill the Pumping Lagoon and Industrial Canal. These areas were part of wastewater treatment and there was an asbestos slurry at the bottom. We placed a geo-membrane all the way across the Pumping Lagoon, then weighed it down with sand bags, and let it settle. Then the Pumping Lagoon was backfilled with clay. About 120,000 yards of material was used, equal to 6,000 truckloads. A synthetic material will be placed between the fill and final cover over the Pumping Lagoon.

The Industrial Canal project was next. In June a berm was built on the north side of Industrial Canal to protect Illinois Beach State Park (IBSP).

The fill material is being harvested on site from the former manufacturing area and borrow pit – we are not dragging contamination in and out of the JM site. There is only 10 % water left in the Industrial Canal now. We are close to being complete. This site will be a buffer zone to IBSP, and will be maintained as wetland. We are continuing to fill the Industrial Canal with sand and should be done in 2-3 weeks.

The Industrial Canal still needs a cap. We will also be capping the Former Manufacturing Area with a 2 foot clay cap. They have completed 35 acres in Section 3 and still have about 10-15 acres to go.

The southwest sites along the western border of the JM Superfund site are impacted with asbestos, which is affecting a NSSD sanitary interceptor. The interceptor was not from Johns Manville, but brings waste from Winthrop Harbor, Zion and Beach Park to the Waukegan Sewage Treatment Plant. When the interceptor was installed, backfill was needed and that fill (contaminated) came from Johns Manville. JM will be rerouting the 42 inch interceptor along Greenwood 3500 feet to give the NSSD interceptor a clean corridor.

Some utilities also need to be de-energized and moved to safely remove residual asbestos. Then they can be replaced. We expect to go forward with that next spring. The project will be complete in August 2015.

Questions

Why can't we use the sand at the power station (NRG)?

It is contaminated with asbestos. We have been negotiating with NRG to see if we can help them remove some of that.

Will you use native plants?

Yes, we have had extensive coordination with the IDNR and the CAG's floristic partners, including the Chicago Botanic Garden.

How much asbestos is in the "sand mountain" on the NRG property?

There is up to 10% in there.

What is the process for envisioning future uses?

We can't share that information for legal reasons.

Will there be restrictive covenants?

Nobody can build there, even on the old industrial site, without going through the USEPA. It is possible a building could be constructed, but it is not economically viable. Any structure would have to float over the cap. JM won't go away – someone has to maintain the site, and that is our responsibility.

What is cost to finish?

The cost is \$28 million for the 18 month period. We also have to project the cost to maintain it. That is estimated at \$90 million.

Will you be maintaining an active NPDES permit?

It is unclear at this point. It should all be clean runoff from clean cover, and we should not need a stormwater permit.

Waukegan Port District – Joe Seidelmann

Earlier this year we became a Green Clean Marina. The Waukegan Port District property takes up a good chunk of the lake front. To minimize the trash impact to the lake, we would like to get better trash containers with varmint proof lids. This will keep trash out of the lake and prevent animals from getting in. A Waukegan Port District crew picks up trash up to twice daily. We are very interested in adding Big Bellys trash containers, plus some varmit proof lids (spring loaded) to install on the open trash barrels that the Port District currently uses.

We are also very interested in working with the Waukegan Harbor CAG to develop educational signage for the public. These signs would be bilingual and incorporate QR codes, and link to more extensive information about lakeshore projects. The hope is that the Waukegan Port District and Waukegan Harbor can be the "Green Entrance to Lake Michigan" for Lake County.

Beach Sweeps – Susie Schreiber

Thirteen community groups came out to conduct beach sweeps on the summer weekends. The mayor is going to recognize the groups at an upcoming City Council meeting. It is the cleanest the beach has been in years.

Remaining 3 BUI's – IDNR – Diane Tecic

The BUI's (Beneficial Use Impairments) were all tied to PCBs in the harbor. Samples were taken before the harbor was dredged. Now that the PCBs are at federally approved safe levels, we need to monitor the following uses.

- Fish Consumption – IDNR will take young fish several cycles
- Benthic USEPA survey
- Phytoplankton and Zooplankton – USEPA survey

Our harbor is unique because we don't have an upstream nutrient source– it is all nearby runoff. It is therefore very hard to compare Waukegan Harbor to other nearby Lake Michigan harbors. After the dredging there was nothing for benthic organisms to live in, so we *could* make a case that this is no longer an impairment.

Questions

How did they identify those BUIs?

My guess is that some assumptions were made. They didn't study before, but based the BUI's on the levels of contamination. We will look at the data, consult with other people in the field, and come to you with what we think are the results. This may also include assumptions because we didn't have data to begin with. (Note, please see Stage I, II and III RAP reports for more information.)

OLD BUSINESS

Bathymetric Survey – Susie Schreiber

Just a quick reminder that the contractor is on target, weather permitting, to work. The surveys are scheduled to be conducted November 8-10, 2014.

NEW BUSINESS

League of Women Voters

For all interested, the League is giving another Stormwater presentation on October 21, 2014, in Northfield, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Thank you for all your support!

Cornog Auditorium
New Trier High School (West)
7 Happ Rd.
Northfield, IL 60093

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting ended at 8:02 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 – Illinois 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.