



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the November 20, 2014, CAG meeting held at Lilac Cottage, Waukegan Park District, Waukegan respectfully submitted by Natalie Dutack, acting as Recording Secretary of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group.

The November 20, 2014, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:03 pm by Corresponding Secretary, Penny Bouchard.

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

Attendance at the November 20, 2014 CAG Meeting:

Alana Bartolai	Lake County Health Department
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Rosita Clarke	USEPA
Natalie Dutack	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Bill Lebensorger	GLRI Grant Administrator
Cherylyn McHugh	Akzo Nobel Aerospace Coatings
Lisa May	City of Waukegan Alderman 7th
Jamie OMeara	Waukegan Port District
Kathy Paap	Lake County Health Department
Rich Romanek	National Gypsum
Ania Ruzaj	IDNR
Chris Tanner	Tanner Environmental
Fred Veenbaas	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station

GUESTS:

Kathryn Clay	League of Women Voters
Todd Degner	Davey Resource Group
Krista Grimm	League of Women Voters
Charlie Hoffman	Lake Forest Open Lands

AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

MINUTES

There are several changes that will be made regarding the IDNR in the September, 2014 minutes concerning the Fish BUI (Beneficial Use Impairment) report. Fish samples from Waukegan Harbor were taken in 2012 (pre-dredge), were tested and released in February 2013. There are no missing fish samples, and the next fish sampling will be completed in 2015 (post dredge comparison).

UPDATES

USEPA

Johns Manville Corp. Superfund Site

Industrial Canal

- JM has completed filling of the remaining surface water areas within the Industrial Canal (IC) with Borrow Pit sand.
- The Telebelt truck has completed cover on the sludge mound area in the Industrial Canal and was demobilized.
- The catwalk at the east end of the Industrial Canal has been removed, and the valve to Lake Michigan was closed October 31, 2014.

Borrow Pit

- Dredging and stockpiling of sand from the Borrow Pit has commenced and the peninsula cleared of vegetation.
- Vegetative cover for the Settling Basin was implemented.
- Borrow Pit dredging, Settling Basin stormwater pipe installation (temporary connection). Collection Basin work is underway (infiltration bed).
- Water trucks are not running at below freezing conditions due to ice formation (safety issue). Calcium chloride is being spread on the roads.

Southwestern Sites (SW Sites)

- The utility subrogation and environmental covenants are proceeding forward.

Ground Water Monitoring

- Industrial Canal/Pumping Lagoon/Collection Basin (IC/PL/CB): Groundwater monitoring on the north side of the Pumping Lagoon and Industrial Canal were non-detect for asbestos.

Former Manufacturing Area

- Work is proceeding in accordance with the approved RAP and RAP addendum.

Perimeter air monitoring results have not detected asbestos. Monitoring of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge to Lake Michigan has not detected asbestos to date. The US Army Corps of Engineers is providing oversight support to USEPA for the work.

North Shore Gas (NSG) North Plant Former MGP (Manufactured Gas Plant): No changes to October 2014 update.

Demobilization activities related to removal of contaminated soil/debris is pretty much complete.

Another round of groundwater testing is scheduled before the end of 2015.

Access issues with the railroad on the eastern edge of the property were resolved via an access agreement. Contaminated soil/debris was removed as close to the railroad property as allowed. This work is now completed. The remaining MGP-related contamination left (potentially under the railroad tracks and easement on each side of the tracks), will be discussed in a future feasibility study (FS) that the USEPA will review and approve.

North Shore Gas (NSG) South Plant Former MGP (Manufactured Gas Plant): No changes to October 2014 update.

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 onsite. The USEPA now expects to provide feedback to the gas company in late November.

Outboard Marine Corporation:

Work is now complete on the Consolidation Facility cover.

Site-wide groundwater sampling at Plant 2 is complete. The USEPA will evaluate the results to see if more oxidizer injection is needed. Testing and adjustments of the water treatment plant for the Consolidation Facility/ West Cell/ Old Die Cast cell continues.

Soil excavation work is complete.

Construction of the Old Die Cast Cell continues. Completion, however, has been pushed back to late November. An additional monitoring well is planned to be installed this fall for the Waukegan Coke Plant portion (Op Unit 2) of the site.

Yeoman Creek Landfill: No changes to October 2014 update.

On August 15, 2014 the USEPA received a response from the Yeoman Creek Remediation Group (YCRG) regarding the USEPA's 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 the 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.

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

IDNR

For the summer of 2015 the IDNR is starting a new process to perform fish, benthos, and plankton sampling in harbors.

They are still accepting comments on the Extended Area of Concern Habitat Management Plan. Please send suggestions to Susie or John Legge.

The Waukegan Harbor CAG has been hosting many site tours over the past few months. A lot of data and feedback is coming through from these sessions. Susie will be passing that information along to the IDNR.

City of Waukegan

No report.

Waukegan Port District

The Waukegan Port District has hired a new manager and we will meet him at the next meeting in January, 2015.

CAG BUSINESSS

Waukegan Harbor USACE Dredging Update

The USACE is currently dredging in the Approach Channel. In the spring of 2015 they will dredge the Outer Harbor of the Federal Channel. All the money is in place but they are still waiting for the IEPA to give them a permit for the Outer Harbor dredge.

The dredged sand will be placed on Operating Unit 2 (Coke Site) in the OMC Superfund Site. They are looking to place up to three (3) feet of dredged material here. This will allow the City of Waukegan to build residential property onsite. Right now it is remediated for commercial/industrial or open use.

All work is on schedule.

Questions

Is the sand coming from the outer harbor?

Yes.

Have we heard anything about the shoaling that occurred on Halloween?

That event has changed the shoreline and depth in the channel. We will discuss the bathymetric status to confirm the full extent. The study has been delayed due to weather, but we will have hard data soon.

Site Tours of the Waukegan Harbor AOC

We have had eleven (11) tours, with fifteen (15) different groups. These include:

- Our auditors, Warady & Davis
- ComEd
- Lake County Forest Preserve District
- Lake County Audubon; Audubon Chicago Region
- Conserve Lake County
- Lake Forest Openlands
- Chicago Wilderness

- USEPA
- Illinois Audubon - Lake Cook Chapter
- College of Lake County;
- Floristic monitor, Margo Milde
- Evanston North Shore Bird Club
- League of Women Voters
- Bird Conservation Network
- Concerned Citizens

We worked with small groups to focus on the special interest of the organization/party. We looked at Bowen Park, Johns Manville, the Pershing Drive water issues, the Waukegan Port District, and the Waukegan Swimming Beach/Dunal Area.

It was helpful for people to really see the issues and successes up front, as many had heard about the work but were unfamiliar with the actual sites. Many were interested in the status of land parcels, especially Johns Manville. There was also strong interest in potential tourism opportunities for the City of Waukegan.

There will be more tours after Thanksgiving - if you haven't signed up and have an interest, do so now!

Chicago Bird Conservation Network- Mary Lou Mellon, President

The statement below was read aloud by Don Wilson:

Thank you very much for the interesting and enlightening site tour of the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern. I was quite impressed with all the work that has been accomplished.

Here is a Bird Conservation Network statement that we would like to have read at your upcoming meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group on Thursday night.

Bird Conservation Network is a regional coalition of 20 organizations sharing an interest in the conservation of birds. The groups' members total more than 35,000 people living primarily in the Chicago area.

BCN would like to congratulate those involved on the impressive work that has been done at Waukegan Harbor and the lakefront area. It's outstanding to have so much attractive lakefront property to develop.

Our primary concern is that the new development be done in a bird-friendly way. Clear and reflective glass kills birds. Scientific research has documented that birds do not recognize that glass is a barrier, so they fly head-on into it and are killed or severely injured. Clear glass kills between three hundred million and a billion birds each year in the U.S. The lakefront is a major north/south migratory bird flyway. New construction on the lake shore or even near to the lake that features clear reflective glass will be devastating to migratory birds.

On the other hand if bird-friendly architecture or bird-friendly glass (the newly developed Ornilux is absolutely clear to the human eye yet has an ultraviolet film that birds perceive and will avoid) is

employed, these new structures will be safely avoided by migratory birds.

We would like to refer you and your architects to a new outstanding, one-of-a-kind publication by American Bird Conservancy titled:

Bird Friend Building Design at <http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/BirdFriendlyBuildingDesign.pdf>

This publication explains the many ways to create buildings that are pleasing, successful in their purpose and bird friendly.

It's also important to point out that building in a bird-friendly way initially is much cheaper than retrofitting buildings after construction to stop the killing of birds. There are many examples of construction that has had to be modified at great expense to save birds. I will be happy to provide examples.

We would be pleased to meet with you and your architects to further explain the urgency of our request. Many bird species are in severe decline as reported by the recent US Fish and Wildlife State of the Birds Report 2014.

Regards,

Mary Lou Mellon, President
Bird Conservation Network
www.bcnbirds.org

BCN is a regional coalition of 20 organizations (bird clubs, Audubon chapters, ornithological societies and conservation organizations) sharing an interest in the conservation of birds. The groups' members total more than 35,000 people living primarily in the Chicago area, but also throughout Illinois, northeastern Indiana, and southern Wisconsin.

BCN promotes public awareness, knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of birds, and other wildlife and wildlife habitat, and both proposes and supports public and private programs designed to protect, restore, and enhance the natural environment, and conserve/increase native bird populations.

BCN seeks to inform the members of our coalition, public and private agencies and landowners in our region, and the general public, about specific threats to birds, and other wildlife and wildlife habitat – and to recommend appropriate action against these threats.

BCN actively coordinates the accumulation and maintenance of long-term monitoring records and other information on Illinois birds and their habitats, to be used as an aid to their perpetuation, and as an indicator of environmental quality.

Benthic Monitoring

We have not received the GLRI Huff & Huff benthic monitoring report yet, but it should be on its way to us shortly.

GLRI Grant Updates

We have obtained a verbal agreement from USEPA to extend the 2010 GLRI grant six (6) months. We have not been able to get in the final burn, and the success of the late fall seeding can only be measured

in the spring. It's not just us – a number of grants will need to be extended.

Chicago Wilderness Conservation and Native Landscaping Award

Congratulations to the Waukegan Park District - they received a Chicago Wilderness Conservation and Native Landscaping Award for work done at Bowen Park. Bowen is a wonderful site and restoration could not have been achieved without the help of our many partners! The Waukegan Park District and members of the Waukegan Harbor CAG will be attending the awards ceremony in December.

Stormwater Runoff and Flooding

Stormwater From the Ground Up – Krista Grimm

The presentations are aimed at homeowners - most people know nothing about stormwater, and don't realize how little watershed there is left in Illinois. Krista's presentation focuses on Cook County, so she posed few questions to clarify whether Waukegan had any combined sewers. Penny Bouchard noted that in the entire North Shore Sanitary District (NSSD), there is less than a half a percent. There may be something near the bluff area and lakefront in Waukegan. By and large that sanitary sewer system is separated.

We all have been experiencing more frequent and severe storm events which have led to increased flooding. Normally, about 50% of water is absorbed into the ground, 40% evapotranspiration, and 10% runs off. You typically wouldn't notice, but now we are noticing due to the loss of open space and wetlands.

Water flows into wetlands when there is too much of it in a storm event, and the wetlands then perform stormwater functions for us. Plants (stems and roots) and soil particles filter the water, trapping particles as they go through. There are microorganisms in soil and plant roots that chemically change the contaminants. Plants also take up contaminants and store them.

In highly urbanized areas there is not a lot of land to absorb excess waters, and the overflow events increase. This changes the absorption numbers to: 55% run-off, 5% infiltration, 30% evapotranspiration, and 10% shallow infiltration. With more run-off, there are more incidents and chances for stormwater to enter Lake Michigan **as is**, with no cleaning. In addition, there is cross contamination even when you have separated sewer systems. Non-point source pollution is one of the factors.

Non-point source pollution can come from roofs gutters, heavy metals contained in petroleum combustion fumes on the roadways, driveways, streets, yards, fertilizers, herbicides, etc. Stormwater becomes polluted and goes into the lake, causing beach closures and warnings.

All beaches are at risk for bacterial contamination. The county monitors beaches and posts warnings – most people, but particularly those with impaired immune systems, would not want swim at these times. The other major beach issue, E. Coli, comes primarily from gulls - 55% gulls, 34% unidentified, 7% human sewage, 4% deer/cow/pig.

What can the public do to address these issues?

- CONSERVE WATER
- Choose less toxic products
- Dispose of pet waster properly (IEPA recommends that pet waste be buried)
- Clear water paths

- Fertilize only when needed
- Properly dispose of hazardous materials
- Disconnect downspouts if they are connected to your storm sewer

We are at our limit for what our Grey Infrastructure (sewer systems) can handle now. We need to implement more Green Infrastructure systems, recreating the natural process of wetlands. There is a lot of skepticism, but studies show that Green Infrastructures are working! Green roofs, rain gardens, blue roofs, roof top agriculture, rain harvesting (rain barrel, cistern, bladder/envelope) are all great examples of Green Infrastructure planning to reduce runoff and contamination. Also - plant trees - mature trees catch 10-20 percent of water that falls on them! Native plantings can reduce basement flooding, too.

For more information, there is a Stormwater action kit available on the website.

Questions

How can we pay for Green Infrastructure improvements?

Grants are the best option.

Waukegan Port District

The Waukegan Harbor CAG will be getting 10 more Big Belly Solar Compactors, plus 4 that recycle, and 10 dome lids for smaller trash cans from our GLRI grant for use by the Waukegan Port District, the Waukegan Park District in Bowen Park by the Morrison Pavilion, and by the City of Waukegan on lakefront near the Swimming Beach and mowed picnic areas.

W.G. Jackson

The WG Jackson will be in the week after July 4, 2015 for five (5) days. Historically the W.G. Jackson has been funded by the USEPA, but will be not this year due to funding cuts. It costs \$18,000 to bring the Jackson into the harbor for five days. We will be looking for grant funding and donations to cover the cost of this year's visit. The Jackson does three (3) educational tours a day, as well as a Project Wet training session.

Eco Ambassador Summer Intern Program

The Eco Ambassador Summer intern program is approved for next year. We are on target for continuing the program in 2015. We are working out this funding as well.

Bathymetric Status Update

The survey is running late due to poor weather. Obviously the shoreline has moved, and we are eager to see the new data. The contractor will be down next week or the following week, and we will find out how much the sand has shifted.

Nominating Committee

Claudia Freeman has agreed to be Chair for the Waukegan Harbor CAG Nominating Committee. This committee will present a slate of officers for the 2015 year at the January CAG meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Monarch Butterfly Waystations

There is an area on the south swimming beach, east of the Stiner Pavilion, that is an excellent location for a butterfly waystation. Oscar Cornejo, one of our Eco Ambassadors, worked on the project this summer. When he returns from college over the December holidays we hope he will be able to complete the forms to make the site a National Waystation for monarch butterflies.

NEW BUSINESS

Waukegan Park Districts – Invasive Species workshop

Join the Waukegan Park District on December 5, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for an Invasive Species workshop presented by the Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership.

Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

Dave Willard of the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (CBCM) will present at the January 15, 2015 meeting. The CBCM monitors birds that hit buildings and take the survivors to be rescued while those avians not so lucky to survive are taken to the Field Museum for analysis. We will talk about what they do with the data and how important it is to design for birds as you begin to create the architectural plans and site designs for development projects. This will be particularly relevant to Waukegan lakefront development.

The (Bald) Eagle has landed

Illinois Audubon is presenting: “The Bald Eagle Has Landed- in Illinois” January 20, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at Heller Nature Center in Highland Park, IL. Our state has the largest wintering population of Bald Eagles after Alaska. Exciting! Louise Clemency, USF&W, will be discussing the reasons behind their presence.

AOC Meeting

The annual AOC meeting is being held at the University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio, March 11-12, 2015.

AOC Delisting

Deer Lake Area of Concern on Lake Michigan has been declared eligible for placement on the Delisted AOC list. It was contaminated by mercury from an abandoned iron mine which discharged mercury in its wastewater, and a gold and silver company using mercury in its mining process. That clean-up was a “baby clean-up” in comparison to the Waukegan Harbor AOC. They diverted water from underground to the surface and created a trout stream as part of the remediation process.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Claudia Freeman and seconded by Don Wilson. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 8:13 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.