



## Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297  
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

**Minutes of the September 18, 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 September 18, 2014, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:03 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 September 18, 2014 CAG Meeting:**

<b>Larry Brewer</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Tom Chefalo</b>	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
<b>Roy Czajkowski</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Natalie Dutack</b>	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
<b>Claudia Freeman</b>	Waukegan Park District
<b>Paul Geiselhart</b>	Lake County Audubon
<b>Paul Kakuris</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Bill Lebensorger</b>	GLRI Grant Administrator
<b>Heriberto León</b>	USEPA
<b>Cherylyn McHugh</b>	Akzo Nobel Aerospace Coatings
<b>Jaime O'Meara</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Rich Romanek</b>	National Gypsum
<b>Susie Schreiber</b>	Waukegan Harbor CAG
<b>Fred Veenbaas</b>	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station
<b>Don Wilson</b>	Concerned Citizen

### **GUESTS:**

<b>Rosemary Heilemann</b>	League of Women Voters – Lake County
<b>Charlie 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>Jeff Roberts</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Laura Roberts</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>David Villalobos</b>	Concerned Citizen, Clean Power Lake County

**AGENDA**

It was noted that under Old Business there will be an update about the Salmon Unlimited Event.

**MINUTES**

There are no additions or corrections to the July minutes. A motion for approval was made by Larry Brewer and seconded by Paul Geiselhart. The minutes were accepted and passed.

**UPDATES**

**USEPA**

***Johns Manville Corp. Superfund Site***

The final phase of cleanup is moving past the project milestone of capping the Pumping Lagoon. The filling of the Industrial Canal continues using sand with a minimal amount of asbestos from the Former Manufacturing Area (operable unit 5). Crews are working three shifts per day to excavate clean sand from the Borrow Pit area.



Description: North Berm and Backfill Area at East Central End of Industrial Canal (Facing Northeast)	
Location: Johns Manville Site, Waukegan, IL	Date: July 30, 2014



Description: Sand Isolation Berm at East End of Industrial Canal (Facing North)	
Location: Johns Manville Site, Waukegan, IL	Date: July 30, 2014



Description: Backfill Area at West End of Industrial Canal (Facing Northwest)	
Location: Johns Manville Site, Waukegan, IL	Date: July 30, 2014



Description: Sand Excavation Area from Former Manufacturing Area (Facing East)	
Location: Johns Manville Site, Waukegan, IL	Date: August 19, 2014

Perimeter air monitoring results have not detected asbestos. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) tests for discharge to Lake Michigan are ongoing and asbestos has not been detected to date.

In the southwestern area of the site (operable units 3, 4 and 8) located along Pershing Road and Greenwood Avenue, ComEd has placed a temporary cover over exposed soils and will begin lattice tower removal after crane mats are placed.



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

At the NSG North Plant, the gas company is preparing to compile all the data collected during the remedial investigation (RI) and summarize the results for the USEPA in preparation for submittal of its draft report. The meeting to discuss the results of the data collection is planned before the end of the year, and the draft RI is expected to be submitted after the USEPA provides comments about the data results to the gas company.

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

At the NSG South Plant, the next round of groundwater sampling is scheduled for the week of September 22. The USEPA continues to review the feasibility study (FS) describing the various cleanup options at the site. The focus is on remediation of free-product or non-aqueous liquids (NAPLs) containing MGP-related contaminants. A focused feasibility study on NAPL is being prepared by the gas company and is expected to be submitted to EPA by end of this month.

### ***Outboard Marine Corporation***

Operable Unit 4: Work continues on the consolidation facility cover. The planned completion date is late September. Site-wide groundwater sampling at Plant 2 is complete. The USEPA will evaluate results to see if more oxidizer injection is needed.

Construction of the water treatment plant for the consolidation facility / west cell / Old Die Cast (ODC) cell is complete and is being tested. Soil excavation work is complete. Construction of the ODC cell itself continues. Completion, however, has been pushed back to late November.

Operable Unit 2: An additional monitoring well is planned this fall for the Waukegan Coke Plant portion of the site.

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

On August 15, 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 is currently in the process of acquiring a new contractor for the Yeoman Creek site and expects to bring the new contractor on board soon.

### **Questions**

*Is there any headway in terms of North Shore Gas/ old EJ&E (now Canadian National) Rail Road right-of-way clean up at the North Plant?* No. The last we heard, Integrys was in negotiations on this project.



### **IDNR**

IDNR representatives are in Erie, Pennsylvania at a Coastal Zone Conference. They have been working on grants with the City of Waukegan. Infrastructure planning grants for Sea Horse Drive and the Swimming Beach are needed to address: hydrology, engineering specs, lighting and movement, and beach stability before doing projects. These issues need to be carefully addressed as we are asking for public money, and we need to use it correctly.

### **City of Waukegan**

No report.

### **Waukegan Port District**

Offshore littoral sand accumulation has increased to 80,000 cubic yards per year, which blocks the Approach Channel and Outer Harbor of the Federal Channel. On August 28<sup>th</sup> a letter was received from the Waukegan Port District noting the USACE Chicago District has combined funding, permits and contracts in place to perform the Outer Harbor dredging in the amount of **50,000 cubic yards**. This work will be done in spring 2015 to address winter littoral drift. The clean sand will be placed on the Coke Site on Sea Horse Drive as the required 3 foot cover for residential use in the spring. Lacustrine sand from the shoreline is preferred here to protect habitat because its' chemical makeup is similar to that of the Waukegan Dunal Area sand and is more protective of the floristic and biological communities of the dunes.

The USACE will dredge the Approach Channel in the fall, as long as weather permits. However, permits are needed as soon as possible for the spring dredging work. We have worked for many years to keep the harbor open. Now that it is cleaned, the only remaining issue is obtaining the IEPA navigational dredging permit. Members were asked if there is any direction they would like the CAG to take in assisting the USACE with obtaining the required navigational permit. General discussion followed.

#### *Comment noted:*

There is a spike in the sediment supply due to severe erosion at north end of Illinois Beach State Park (IBSP). A lot of the nature preserve acreage has been lost at the north end as clumps of sediment and habitat move down the shoreline. One issue is: what to do with the sand? The sediment supply is public trust, but the doctrine is not being enforced. The sand is supposed to be used for the common good of all the people. It was suggested it should go back into the transport system. We have agencies with no money and conflicts of interest – it's up to us to be socially responsible. One condition should be that the sand is not impounded – it should be free to move through the system. More discussion followed.

#### *Motion:*

A motion was made and seconded for the CAG to write a letter of support to the IEPA to issue the dredging permit for the Outer Harbor of the Federal Channel. Again, more discussion followed.

### **Questions**

*Have there been any other periods like this recorded with so much sand accumulation?* Not where it is this far out. It has been accruing for 110 years.

*Is the USACE committed to remove sand on annual basis, or is this because there is a focus now on the Waukegan Harbor?* The USACE is fully funded and committed to the spring and fall dredging for 2014

through Sept. 2015. They are just missing the permit for the Outer Harbor dredging of the Federal Channel. There is no commitment beyond that. In the past, the USACE would come out every year and dredge to allow ships to come in.

One challenge is the possibility of defunding for these kinds of USACE projects. There are Federal Harbor Maintenance Fund monies that are not being released. CAG members are encouraged to write to senators and ask about releasing the funding.

*Are there any outreach programs by the harbor or city to increase usage?* The Waukegan Port District is working to increase products and services brought into the harbor, in addition to existing industry. There is a very pro-active board with two individuals focused on recreational and commercial boating. A new General Manager is coming on board soon.

*If the USACE stopped dredging, the harbor mouth would close – where would the funding come from?* It would have to be local funding – the City of Waukegan in this case. There would be a serious economic impact. We are a sailing harbor, and we have had to turn away some of our long time sail boaters due to their deep draft requirements.

*Is that a market area?* Yes – if we could take the deep draft sail boats.

*Who is responsible? Is there a beach nourishment project?* Illinois Coastal Zone Management / IDNR is working on these issues with the City of Waukegan. The CAG has also been working with area partners to solve these problems since 2011.

*Is there anything on the other side of the scale that would have us argue to not have the permit?* Contamination would be the only one.

VOTE: The Motion for the CAG to write a letter of support to the IEPA to issue the dredging permit for the Outer Harbor of the Federal Channel: The motion was passed by majority support.

## **CAG BUSINESS**

### **Fish Beneficial Use Impairment – Status**

There are six BUIs for Waukegan Harbor, and only three have been addressed. One that remains is the Fish BUI. Collection of fish tissue samples was being done in 2012-2013 by the IDNR. The revised 2012 results were delivered in February 2013. We are still waiting for the results. The last we heard in January 2014, they were working on finalizing the 2013 results. We can expedite these, but it will cost more. The CAG would like to spend the money to have the results in a more timely manner.

### **Bathymetric Survey Overview of Expanded Lakefront Area**

J.F. Brennan Company, Inc. has been asked to expand the bathymetric study area this year to wrap around and include the Recreational Harbor entrance and the mouth of the Waukegan River south of the harbor. This way we will have two years of clear data on which to make decisions by all partners. The cost is \$11,000.00 and National gypsum is splitting this cost with the CAG.

### **Questions**

*Is there data about depth of the lake?* The data will show the current depths, and will allow us to compare data over two years to see how much is accumulating, and more accurately estimate ongoing

dredging needs.

*Why won't the survey go up to IBSP?* IBSP is beyond our jurisdiction. This is for the harbor areas. It could be done, but would have to be done by the IDNR.

### **Site Tours of Waukegan Harbor AOC and Extended AOC**

Site tours of the Waukegan Harbor AOC and Extended AOC, including GLRI restoration work, are being scheduled now. Tours will leave from Bowen Park and go all the way to the south side of the harbor, covering ALL the areas for the 2010 GLRI grant and Superfund cleanup. If interested, put your name down on the signup sheet tonight, or contact the CAG.

### **Waukegan Dunal Area and Swimming Beach Near Shore Management Issues**

A slide show of photos documenting the issues at the Waukegan Dunal area and Swimming Beach was presented by Susie Schreiber and Natalie Dutack. Topics covered included beach hydrology issues, signage, garbage bins, gray infrastructure, and potential locations for a handicapped canoe/kayak launch ramp. The presentation will be made available on the Waukegan Harbor CAG website.

### **Love Lake Michigan Campaign**

The Delta Institute would like us to put together slides from our summer intern program to put up on their website. Our Eco-Ambassador T-shirts were advertising their "Love Lake Michigan" campaign. This is a good way for us to share our Eco Ambassador's experience online.

### **Eco Ambassador Summer Intern Program**

Under Education and Communication in the GLRI Grant we were able to fund three of our four interns (Eco Ambassadors) who came through Lake Forest Openlands Center for Conservation Leadership and Cool Learning Experience programs. We also funded a trip for 9-10 additional Center for Conservation Leadership students to spend 4 days exploring Lake Michigan from Milwaukee over to Muskegan, Michigan and on up the eastern shoreline to Traverse City, Michigan. Stops, seminars and research opportunities at the Annis Water Research Institute (home port of the WG Jackson research ship), Sleeping Bear Dunes, and a the Inland Seas tall school ship comprised a portion of the curriculum on this in depth field trip where the students were able to see and participate in ongoing Lake Michigan research on a greater scale than in Lake County, Illinois alone. The trip has altered their view of the Great Lakes, with students commenting that, "we need to do more for future generations" and that the trip made them realize how everything in the Lake Michigan watershed is connected. The cost for all of this was under \$6,000.

Should we continue the above program next year? A similar amount of money would need to be raised. The program creates job opportunities in an underserved Environmental Justice community.

### **Questions**

*Was this first time we did the program?* Yes, through the GLRI Grant. Our initial intern program was through the College of Lake County (CLC). Bill Lebensorger was a CLC intern under Margo Milde, our floristic specialist, and is now our Grant Administrator. The program with CLC ended after two years. The Eco Ambassadors were a new project in our third year, using the remaining Intern funding.

*Did it accomplish the goals?* Yes

*Do we add more interns if we have more money, or more options for education?* That is in discussion.



*CAG members feedback:*

- The Waukegan Port District noted that they would like to add aquatic biology to the program and have the interns available to work on a portion of the Green Harbors – Green Marinas outreach to boaters if we do it again.
- If we wanted to continue this, would it be a repeat or add new knowledge? The consensus was a bit of both, plus the Waukegan Port District's request.
- Could funding be transferred ~~this~~ to the public sector?
- Funded by the government or local commercial contributions community conscious banks.
- The ideas above were well received! CAG/partners deemed the Eco-Ambassador intern program was a success, and members felt that it should be continued in 2015.

**Monarch Butterfly Habitat on Waukegan Swimming Beach**

The Eco-Ambassador interns requested that the City of Waukegan develop an official Monarch Butterfly Way Station using a small portion of the south end of the Swimming Beach already hosting large populations of Monarchs in its dunal area. They did an analysis of the site, made native species suggestions, and plans. The area is already teeming with Monarchs and dragonflies and the plan would only improve the existing habitat.

**Milwaukee Water Resource**

Several CAG representatives went to the University of Milwaukee School Freshwater Sciences Grand Opening last Saturday. It was an impressive campus with high quality on going fresh water ecosystem research opportunities. In lake monitoring by buoy is particularly interesting, as it can produce real time data. We would like to look at more opportunities for near shore and in lake research pertaining to our coastal zone issues and sand management in the near future.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Stormwater from the Ground Up Presentation**

From the League of Women Voters - there are two more storm water presentations coming up. One is taking place on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in at 10:30 am in Zion, and the other on Monday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Wilmette. These presentations are funded by a grant from Illinois Coastal Zone Program.

**Salmon Unlimited Fishing Event**

The annual Youth Salmon Fishing Event was last weekend. Everyone went away happy. It is always a popular event!

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Announcements**

- On Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 a beach sweep will take place from 2-3:30 p.m. Meet by old the concession stand at the Swimming Beach.
- The Department of Urban Development requires a plan that is used as a guide for funding. The City of Waukegan is working with Lake County on their plan. Tom Chefalo has the data. HUD funding is for social service agencies and economic development. The money is used to help improve quality of life for people in Waukegan, with the premise that if you improve quality of life, people are more likely to care about environmental issues. Tom needs feedback and input from new users and citizens. He will provide the link on the CAG website. There is also a link on the County's website. Questions are in Spanish and English.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Chefalo, and seconded by Don Wilson. The motion passed. 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.