



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297
Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the January 15, 2015, 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 January 15, 2015, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:11 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 January 15, 2014 CAG Meeting:

Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Natalie Dutack	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Kukuris	Concerned Citizen
Bill Lebensorger	GLRI Grant Administrator
Heriberto Leon	USEPA
Kathy Paap	Lake County Health Department
Rich Romanek	National Gypsum
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Susie Schreiber	Waukegan Harbor CAG
Fred Veenbaas	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Susan Figueroa	Faith In Place
Susann Hoffman	Concerned Citizen
Jeff Roberts	Concerned Citizen
Laura Roberts	Concerned Citizen
Dr. David Willard	Bird Conservation Network

AGENDA

Addition to the agenda: Zion Nuclear site news/update.

MINUTES

The name of 'Bird Conservation Network' requires correction in the November 2014 minutes. Motion to accept the October and November minutes pending corrections was made, seconded, and carried.

UPDATES

USEPA

Johns Manville Corp. Superfund Site

Johns Manville recently revised their work schedule. They will begin reduced hours for sand dredging activities at the Borrow Pit. Work hours are Monday-Friday 7 AM to 5 PM, but if weather conditions permit, they may occasionally be working 7 AM to 7 PM Monday - Friday. Work activities include excavator, loader, and truck operations. They have about 40,000 cubic yards still to dredge. These operations will proceed until approximately May 2015.

The aim is to speed up the work with this aggressive work schedule in order to reduce the duration of the project.

There have been some noise complaints regarding the loaders. USEPA met with a resident, Alderman Lisa May, and Susie Schreiber on December 17 to talk about the noise issue with the loaders. USEPA is aware the excavators emit a short-term safety alarm when backing up to reposition themselves in the proper position for work—especially at the beginning and end of a shift. Work will adhere to the daily work schedule noted above.

North Shore Gas (NSG) North and South Plant Former MGP

USEPA did not have an update this month, but will soon.

Outboard Marine Corporation

After the City of Waukegan's demolition of the Triax Building, the sole remaining building at the OMC site, the USEPA plans to remove the contaminated concrete and soil below that building for offsite disposal. The USEPA plans to complete that work in early summer 2015.

Work will resume on the Old Die Cast containment cell and the nearby utility corridor in the spring 2015 with completion expected in early summer 2015.

Shakedown work continues on the newly installed Wastewater Treatment Plant for produced water from the West Cell, Old Die Cast Cell, and the Consolidation Facility. The USEPA contractors will continue to operate the Plant for much of 2015.

The USEPA will be evaluating the site groundwater in the next few months to determine if more treatment is needed in 2015.

Yeoman Creek Landfill

The Yeoman Creek Remediation Group (YCRG) performed routine groundwater, surface water, and sediment sampling and analyses as required by the long-term monitoring plan.

On December 2, 2014 the USEPA and IEPA participated in a detailed technical discussion with the YCRG subject matter experts and other representatives regarding the technologies and remedial action plan

for the additional Phase 2 protective measures for the Terrace Nursing Home (TNH) building. This was the first technical meeting with USEPA's new contractor, Tetrattech.

USEPA is proposing some additional changes to the proposed remedial plan to ensure that it provides the reduction of methane gas exceedances at the Yeoman Creek Landfill site. USEPA expects to conduct another round of technical discussions prior to sending approval of the Phase 2 protective measures at the TNH building.

IDNR

No Report.

The CAG does have the IDNR's Extended Area of Concern Habitat Management Plan. We need to get it in with comments and edits. It has been so helpful to have site tours and get further input for the report. Although the IDNR has decreased the length of the document, there are still factual errors the CAG would like revised. We want to make sure all the parties are in agreement.

Questions

Is the draft up on the CAG Website?

The original draft is on the CAG website.

City of Waukegan

No report.

It was noted that there was a recent article in the newspaper about developing land units in the area south of the Waukegan River near the EJ & E Railroad right of way for town homes.

CAG BUSINESS

Site Tours of the Waukegan Harbor AOC - December

The CAG had a very helpful AOC and Extended AOC site tour with Audubon-Chicago Region in early December, 2014. The reuse options for the Johns Manville Superfund Site, particularly how this property can be reused to the best benefit for all people in Illinois, especially those in Waukegan and the local region were raised. Many options noted to date were shared, including that the site, or portions of the site, would be an excellent grassland bird area. Per our avian monitor, Ed Collins, these imperiled grassland bird species have been using the site annually for migration and nesting. Illinois has lost a tremendous percentage of its native Grasslands-ecosystems. The Waukegan Harbor CAG, JM and USEPA are open to input and ideas about how the land should be used. Please share your thoughts and ideas!

2010 GLRI Grant Extension

We have received a formal six month extension from USEPA thanks to our Grant Administrator and Quality Assurance Manager. A revised schedule and timeline is in place. We will be finalizing work with contractors and finishing up items like signage and outreach during the grant extension period.

Waukegan Lakefront

Joe Hmieleski, our Waukegan Dunal Area Project Manager, arranged for Lake County Stormwater

Management (SMC) to map the Ordinary High Water Marks on the Swimming Beach and the southern portion of the Waukegan Dunal Area. This data will help to determine where digging, building, moving of sand can legally be performed. We need to know where the waters of the US are, versus the waters of the state and local governments. US taxpayer dollars are involved in the decisions. SMC also mapped the south portion of the public boat launch area at the harbor for the Waukegan Port District for use in a grant application for the handicapped canoe/kayak boat launch.

Chicago Wilderness Conservation and Native Landscaping Award

The Waukegan Park District and members of the CAG attended the Award ceremony at Loyola University in December of 2014. The Park District received a Chicago Wilderness Conservation and Native Landscaping Award for ravine and oak woodland restoration at Bowen Park. The event was well attended by major funders of the Chicago Wilderness. It is an honor for the Park District. Congratulations!

Bowen Park – Frog Pond Renovation Work

This update will be postponed until the next meeting.

Signage - Bowen Park, Waukegan Port District, and the Lakefront

As the 2010 GLRI Grant is being finalized, we are moving on to Phase 2 which includes signage at Bowen Park and on the lakefront. Signage is a major component of connecting with the general public and users of these areas. The Waukegan Harbor CAG, Waukegan Port District, the City of Waukegan and the Waukegan Park District will be coordinating the signages, so they will be uniform. Signs will be informative, fun, and interactive. The signage will encourage people to stay on the trails at Bowen Park and will include educational signs noting birds at both sites, with Piping Plovers noted at the dunes.

Comments were made on how great the fish consumption signs were. They engaged the community and got over 480 students involved. We would like to do the same for the next round of signs.

Questions

Will signs be bilingual?

Yes, or they will have QR codes.

Birds and Building Collisions – Dr. David Willard

Our understanding of migration has come a long way - it used to be thought impossible for birds to travel so far. Now we have learned so much more!

- Some birds time their migration for feeding, while others, like Woodpeckers and Chickadees, do not migrate. There are other extremes, like Arctic Terns, that migrate from pole to pole.
- Many birds head to South America or the Gulf Coast for winter.
- A few migrate during the day, like Cranes and Blue Jays, but huge majorities (especially songbirds) fly at night. They are essentially born with star charts in their brains.
- Birds will come from all over and funnel down the two sides of Lake Michigan while they head south and then back north again. They use the lakefront as a navigation tool.
- Birds tend to come back to the same place. Close to 300 species come through our area.
- While they are migrating there a lot of hazards - storms, introduced plants like burdock (birds can be trapped by burrs), feral cats, natural predators, AND things we don't know enough about yet, like wind farms/mills.

As birds come down the lakefront they travel through is a few really spectacular bird spots (Lincoln Park,

Grant Park, & Jackson Park), BUT they also have to deal with the wall of buildings in downtown Chicago.

City lights look like stars which can confuse birds, causing them to fly into buildings and die. We work with Chicago Bird Collision Monitors to rescue / treat / release the birds. The birds that don't survive are taken to the Field Museum.

The CBCM has conducted a 36 year study of bird mortality at McCormick Place and identified the following:

- Collection started in 1978 and CBCM has picked up 38,000 birds / 150 species.
- Species include: Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed junco, Swamp sparrow, White-throated sparrow, Hermit thrush, Fox sparrow, Ovenbird, Lincoln's sparrow, American Tree sparrow, and Tennessee warbler.
- We found some extreme rarities like Painted buntings, Yellow rails, Brewer's sparrow, and Cave swallows.
- The collected birds were all prepared as specimens.
- We measure each bird as they come in to help us understand change over time. All are prepared as study skins or as skeletons. You can measure more on a skeleton than skin, and we need to look at size for changes due to climate.
- There are simple things to learn, like migrating patterns, but we have also seen the difference in the sexes in migration.
 - For example, with sparrows, males' spring migration peaks at an earlier time, and females come through later – this is because males have to come up to establish a territory and get ready to win a mate. In the fall the migrations are virtually the same.
 - Another interesting discovery - female American Woodcocks outnumber males in spring migration, yet in fall there are about even. In addition, something strange is going on with female Woodcocks – their ovaries are far more developed than most birds. They are basically almost ready to lay their eggs when they land.
- Our interns have also looked at measurements of bill size from the 1970s to present. Bill size is decreasing in general. The next step will be getting better measurements of bone size to see if this pattern is continuing.

Starting in 1998 McCormick place began turning off the lights on some nights. At this point we began collecting data showing what parts of the building were light and dark, and where birds were killed in relation to the light and dark building spaces. It was identified that:

- Where lights were off, birds didn't hit/die, and where lights were on, there were many deaths.
- A percent reduction of birds killed can be shown by having lights off. It's now a quarter of what it used to be.

Other buildings have been monitored, but not as long as McCormick Place. Data currently shows there are, for example, a greater percent of Warbler fatalities at the Willis Tower, but McCormick has the most incidents of Sparrow fatality. We think the "Lights out Chicago Initiative" has saved birds, but there wasn't a good baseline before its implementation.

We need to start designing while thinking about birds. Glass that is only visible to birds may help, but there is no evidence yet, and the window decals, unfortunately, aren't a solution. Also, energy efficient does not mean bird friendly. That may soon be part of the assessment.

The more habitat there is along Lake Michigan, the better! These birds are coming from as far as Mexico, feed here, fatten up, then keep flying. Shoreline habitat is critical for birds. **We request that anything close to the lake be kept as open habitat.** We know people want to develop, but we can work with the architects/city to design well. There are already cities with bird ordinances, like San Francisco, and we can follow suit.

It is imperative that we work with the developers in the area, start some planning, and collect baseline data.

Questions

Do you think altitude of flight can affect how / why birds are hitting the building?

We would like to do more research on that. We can't tell where they hit the building. The building may be tall but the birds could be colliding at a low spot.

Is there a lot of science in solutions like angled glass?

There is science in it. The research is being done. Especially with the new glass – people swear by this UV glass, but others are saying there still are bird deaths, so we have to wait for the data.

New Citizen Science Opportunities

There are new opportunities that will be available from Illinois Audubon. This year they will be holding two classes, one on butterflies in the summer and one on reptiles and amphibians in September. We have a little of the GLRI grant money available and we would like input – maybe we could have a one day course taught here? It is a wonderful opportunity.

At the next meeting we will have this-course information, and will share it with the Waukegan Park District and the Waukegan Harbor CAG. It is important to start getting some thoughtful, good volunteers trained.

It was determined by consensus that this is a project worthy of follow-up.

Monarch Butterfly Resources

There was an excellent presentation by Friends of the Green Bay Trail in Glencoe on raising Monarchs in the backyard. They shared fun facts, for example, that the Monarch tastes with its feet, as well as tips for creating habitat for these pollinators.

Plastic Fibers Emerge as Lake Michigan Pollutant

The Illinois Indiana Sea Grant has preliminary results from their plastic survey in southern Lake Michigan. Microfibers are an even larger concern than originally thought. They are found in higher concentration in at the south end of the Lake Michigan due to currents and to population centers. Chemical contaminants and bacteria can cling to plastics and travel through lake currents to other ecosystems. Please see the full article online at:

http://www.iiseagrant.org/newsroom/helm/TheHelm_Winter_2015_PlasticFibers.pdf

Eco Ambassadors

We are working with the Lake Forest Openlands' Center for Conservation Leadership and the Chicago Botanic Garden's Plants of Concern on a new 2015 Eco Ambassador program. We are looking at what worked well last year, and where improvement is needed. 2015 will be an 8 week program, with a day of

overview training. We are refining the schedule, with participants working from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. We would have them remain a part of the beach clean-up, but only for only 1 hour a day the first thing in the morning. With more Big Belly Solar Compactors, the trash should be more contained. We are also looking at the possibility of obtaining waders for interns – getting wet shoes was an issue last summer.

W.G. Jackson

The WG Jackson will be in the week after July 4, 2015 for five (5) days. There will be 3 research trips going out per a day. Funding opportunities are being sought as USEPA is no longer funding the program. We are going to the corporate and business communities to see if their employees would like to participate in family groups this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Bathymetric Survey Overview of Expanded Lakefront Area

Due to weather the survey has been delayed. Rescheduling information will identified at the meeting next month.

Zion Nuclear Power Plant

The Zion Solutions, LLC website has a wealth of information. They are decommissioning the plant and are reaching a milestone. The radioactive spent fuel rods have been stored in a water pool in a building at the site. All of the fuel assemblies are being moved into dry cask storage on the south end of the site.



This is the largest decommissioning to date. This phase of the project is worth about 100 million dollars. All of the fuel rod assemblies will be in the casks in about a week or two. Please go to their website if you want more info at:

<http://www.zionsolutionscompany.com>



Site in Conn that will be similar to Zion.

It was also suggested that we post a recent Chicago Tribune article on the clean-up on the CAG website.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Report

Claudia Freeman as Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the 2015 Executive Committee slate:

Susie Schreiber as Chair, Penny Bouchard as Corresponding Secretary, Larry Brewer as Treasurer, and Fred Veenbass, Don Wilson, and Paul Geiselhart as members at large. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

AOC Meeting

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

Water Summit

The Water Summit is occurring June 23-24, 2015 in Milwaukee, WI. More information will be shared as we get it.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Chefalo, seconded by Larry Brewer. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 8:05 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>
<http://www.ilenviro.org>

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

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

Great Lakes Commission.
Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy – Annual Progress Report
Great Lakes Water Levels

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

State of the Great Lakes – SOLEC full report

<http://www.cciw.solec>

<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.