



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297

Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the March 19 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 March 19, 2015, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:06 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 March 19, 2015 CAG Meeting:

Alana Bartolai	Lake County Health Department
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Phil Connelly	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Natalie Dutack	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Bill Lebensorger	GLRI Grant Administrator
Heriberto Leon	USEPA
Lisa May	City of Waukegan – Alderman 7 th Ward
Scott Myers	Johns Manville
Jamie O'Meara	Waukegan Port District
Steve Robillard	IDNR
Rich Romanek	National Gypsum
David Rozmanich	IDNR
Ania Ruszaj	IDNR
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Diane Tecic	IDNR
Fred Veenbaas	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station
Barbara Waller	Concerned Citizen – 1 st Baptist Church
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Tat Ebihara	AECOM – Johns Manville
Rosemary Heilemann	League of Women Voters – Lake County & Lake Michigan REgion
Charlie Hoffman	Lake Forest Open Lands & Concerned Citizen
Eli Lechter	Illinois Shore Committee

Laurie Morse
Alex Morgan
Laura Roberts
Mary Fran Troha

Illinois Shore Committee
Sierra Club - Beyond Coal Campaign
Concerned Citizen
Christ Episcopal Church / CRLC

AGENDA

No additions

MINUTES

Corrections to the February 2015 minutes:

- Under the Johns Manville section of the report the statement should read "NRG Energy is going to move a portion of their sand to the industrial canal. **The remaining sand is staying where it is** at NRG."
- Under the IDNR portion of the minutes "Aquatic Research Center" shall be corrected to "Research and Education Center".

A motion to accept minutes with corrections was made. Claudia Freeman moved to accept, and the motion was seconded by Paul Geiselhart. All were in favor, and the minutes passed.

UPDATES

USEPA – *Heriberto Leon*

Please note: At the last meeting the Waukegan Harbor CAG asked USEPA for a detailed reference map for the JM and North Shore Gas North Plant sites, which they have provided. This gives the Waukegan Harbor CAG a better perspective on the location of all the clean-up sites in relation to the lake and harbor. If there is any feedback on the maps please let USEPA know!

Johns Manville Corp. Superfund Site

Operations continue in the Borrow Pit area through May. Work hours are Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. generally, but if weather conditions permit, they will extend their hours to 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Work activities include the use of an excavator, a loader, and truck operations. As of last month there were about 40,000 cubic yards remaining to move from the Borrow Pit and use in the capping of the Industrial Canal. The aim is to speed up the work with this aggressive schedule in order to reduce the duration of the project.

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

North Plant – the USEPA is waiting for a data summary report (in relation to the remedial investigation) that is due later this year from Integrys. This is a necessary step before they submit an initial draft Remedial Investigation report.

South Plant – A revised draft Focused Feasibility Study (FS) for Dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPL) (pools of chemicals or mixtures of chemicals) remediation in the groundwater is expected by end of March 2015.

Outboard Marine Corporation

Work is supposed to start later next month to begin remediation of the site where the Triax building formally stood. The Triax building has been totally removed.

Yeoman Creek Landfill

The USEPA submitted comments this month to the Yeoman Creek Remediation Group (YRCG) on their proposed approach to the Phase II backyard and parking lot remediation effort at the Terrace Nursing Home. USEPA, Illinois EPA and USEPA's new contractor, Tetrattech, had been engaged in technical discussions 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 TNH building. The comments that the USEPA submitted to the Group are meant to ensure that the remediation provides the reduction of the landfill gas exceedances needed in the northern portion of the site.

IDNR - Diane Tecic

Diane introduced David Rozmanich, with the Illinois DNR Economic Development office.

Benthos testing update – Once the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is finalized, the IDNR will provide a copy of it to the Waukegan Harbor CAG for review and placement on the Waukegan Harbor CAG website.

Fish Sampling - In 2012 Waukegan Harbor was sampled for PCBs in fish. The results were compared with fish samples taken in the same year from North Point Marina and Jackson Harbor. Analysis found the fish from Waukegan Harbor had higher PCB levels than the other two sites. This year IDNR will follow the same process, and will also attempt to sample juvenile carp, an additional species to the list. This may be difficult as juvenile carp are not typically found in Waukegan Harbor. Sampling will take place May – July, 2015. Results are expected by January, 2016.

Questions

What size carp are you looking for?

For Juvenile carp IDNR would be looking for a fish 8 inches or smaller.

Do PCBs have signatures to differentiate between Waukegan Harbor and other places?

It can be done, but it is not a simple thing to figure out.

City of Waukegan

The Waukegan Lakefront Group meets at City Hall tomorrow. Topics include the Sea Horse Drive Parking Lot grant, Lakefront Implementation Plan grant, sea wall repair investigation, boardwalk and signage, and research and education opportunity updates. All parties need to be at the table. We are no longer need to remove PCBs from the harbor sediment, we are on the next step – infrastructure upgrades!

CAG BUSINESS

US Great Lakes Area of Concern meeting Toledo – March 2015 - report

The major focuses of the meeting were: 1. Area of Concern (AOC) Beneficial Use Impairment (BUIs) removals, i.e. delisting, and 2. Areas Under Recovery. There was a great deal of thoughtful discussion on which tools are the most important for outreach and public involvement in Delisting and Recovery discussions. Instant surveys completed at the conference by attendees showed that most AOC are using one-on-one meetings more frequently, and with more success, than other outreach options such as social media.

It was noted that it's really important to keep open communications ongoing with the stakeholders – everyone needs to talk to their congressman, the USEPA, and other involved parties. If there is an issue, we should take the time to talk the issues out.

There was ~~also~~ an interesting discussion from the White Lake Area of Concern in Michigan. -Surveys were conducted to learn what the public perceptions were of the cleanup actions and to help determine where to go once the site is cleaned up. They found it a really useful tool to actively engage with all sectors of the public – both locally and regionally.

The Waukegan Harbor CAG wants to know what you currently see in the AOC and Extended AOC area and what you *want* to see. We will help the City of Waukegan and Lake County in determining where they may want to go.

Swallow Nest Monitoring –USGS

Tom and Chris Custer from the US Geological Survey are adding a set of swallow nesting boxes to the Johns Manville lakefront site, and another set down on the old Lake Shone Foundry site south of the Waukegan River on property now owned by the City of Waukegan. This will broaden the areas within the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern being monitored for contaminants of concern. The Custers are also working to have a set of swallow nesting boxes placed on the Naval Station Great Lakes lakefront. The 2014 sampling results will be available this coming July. Hopefully the eggs will show a reduction of PCB's in the eggs tested from the harbor between 2012 and 2014.

IDNR - Benthic BUI Sampling -Waukegan Harbor

Barbara Eikenberry, USGS (beikenberry@usgs.gov) heard our questions after her presentation at last month's CAG meeting. She sent over the results from the 2012 testing. The final report by Batelle on its 2012 sampling is publicly available at:

<http://waukeganharborcag.com/ReportsandStudies/Waukegan%20AOC%20%20Final%20Report.pdf>

GLRI Benthic work

Huff and Huff will be conducting one more round of sampling this spring. They will take samples at all the original sampling points in Bowen Park and on the Waukegan Dunal Area, as well as one additional site-in the dunes.

Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting & Great Lakes Day – Washington, DC - February, 2015

The focus of the meeting covered agriculture impacts on the Great Lakes from the industry perspective with input from target working groups concerned with the long term health of the Great Lakes. The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission will September 28-29, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois, and will be held in conjunction with the Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference. The meetings are open to everyone.

USACE - Great Lakes Navigation Stakeholder's Meeting - Small and medium harbors - Chicago

The USACE will host the Great Lakes Navigation Stakeholder Workshop on April 14, 2014 at Chicago District offices. Regional needs, budget priorities, trends and issues and future opportunities will be discussed. Review of this year and next year's monetary allocations have been sent out which includes a very small discretionary budget.

The Seawall on the north side of the Entrance Channel needs repair in order to meet safety standards for the Waukegan Swimming Beach side. The USACE and Congressman Robert Dold are aware of the failing structural status. Discussions with the Corps and the Waukegan Lakefront Committee last fall determined

that the next step is to send a diver down to determine the exact underwater condition of the seawall so that realistic repair costs can be determined. The funding for this preliminary structural investigation is estimated to cost about \$20,000. We will work hard to obtain this first funding step.

***Johns Manville Superfund Site - Scott Myers, JM
Redevelopment, Restrictions, and Opportunities***

JM has updated maps showing acreage on each of the individual units of the JM site. The green area is overseen by IEPA, and the areas in blue are overseen by USEPA Superfund Division. The Industrial Canal and the Pumping Lagoon areas are capped and seeded with native vegetation. JM has a 2-3 year time frame for the completion of all final remedial work, but that will depend on the utilities: AT&T, North Shore Gas and North Shore Water Reclamation District. JM will need to work with each of them on them on the west and south property boundaries to get done in time. JM plans on having most of the heavy lifting work down by October, 2015 if the schedule holds up.

Asked last meeting: What are the restrictions on the Superfund portion of site and what may be done for future development on the industrial portion of the site?

A lot depends on what JM planned for the site, but there are people who would like to develop it! Ski slopes, marijuana farms, solar power installations, and shooting ranges have all been proposed. The problem is always going to be the caps. You can't put in a foundation that will pierce any of the caps. Because the actual capped lagoons are so unique, it will be difficult to build anything on them; as a result of the land settling over many years.

Asked last meeting: What type of fencing will be in place?

The Superfund portion of the JM property has to remain fenced with signage, and managed. As long as it is supervised (USEPA), passive trails could be installed. There is great potential for the site to be managed for both nesting and migratory grassland birds.

USEPA Superfund Division has a protocol for involving the public on the site reuse opportunities and restrictions. Tonight's meeting is important as JM is going forward and preparing to discuss the potential for development. The CAG wants to thank all the partners and stakeholders because working together has gotten us this far.

Questions

What is the status of the work?

Completion of work is being held up by utilities co-ordination.

What can be done?

If you have enough money, basically anything can be done. However, you risk piercing the cap. End use will be determined with very careful consideration of protecting the caps in place over the contaminated areas. Certain development could also be detrimental to migratory birds, due to the close proximity to Illinois Beach State Park.

Is there a plan for handling invasive plants in the future?

JM set aside a reserve to manage the area. Future site management was worked out in the JM remediation plan. JM will maintain caps and vegetation plus carry out sampling.

Who would open the gate if someone wanted to access?

Currently it is AECOM, with everything overseen by USEPA.

For the North Shore Gas - North Plant Coke site they can pierce the cap, but they have to put measures in place to prevent volatile organics from escaping. Can you pierce the JM site caps with some kind of block to prevent asbestos escaping?

Any proposed structure cannot destroy the integrity of the cap in any manner. JM will need a soil management plan.

Lake Michigan Water Trails Network - Eli Lechter and Laurie Morse

Creating the Lake Michigan Trail

We have one of the greatest resources in the world – a beautiful freshwater shoreline. The big idea is to connect the four states (Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan) that go around Lake Michigan with a multimodal (hiking, biking, and canoe/kayak) trail system. *Why multimodal?* We would have 600 miles of trail through a varied, beautiful and unique environment. Over 22 million people could access the trail and it doesn't require a passport. That is 52 communities in 4 states. People have already been canoeing all the way around the Lake Michigan. We want to make it accessible to all! IDNR, National Parks, Department of the Interior and other partners are all working towards this goal. The goals are to protect America's rivers, shorelines, and waterways and increase access to outdoor recreation. Linking urban areas with natural resources is vital, and the Illinois portion of the Lake Michigan coast is the most urban of all.

Benefits

Trails are a huge attraction for tourism, which creates jobs and brings in revenue. Remember that every \$1 invested is a \$2 return. Le Route Verte in Canada created 2,000 jobs and brought \$94.5 million! It also increases property values of homes near the trail.

Waukegan Harbor

Waukegan is very important to the Lake Michigan Trails Network. You have access to the lake, restaurants, natural areas, parking, launch areas, etc. Waukegan Harbor is an ideal location.

The trail will have access every 5 miles, but the water trail runs into private land in the northern Illinois suburbs. Currently Indiana is completely designated with 45 miles. Michigan recently fully funded water trail planning and has nearly 1,000 miles of shoreline. Wisconsin is acquiring 450 miles of land. The Illinois shoreline is only 63 miles. We are working to fill in the 35 mile gap north of Chicago. At trail heads our aim is to provide on and off access with directional signage, as well as restrooms, drop off access, bike parking and more.

We need support and funding. We are reaching out to get the Waukegan community involved and are asking for your support with:

- A letter of endorsement (In order to get the water trail portion designated as a *National Water Trail* we need proof of support.)
- Join the Lakefront Community Trail group
- Designate a contact person with whom to coordinate
- Partner on planning and implementation

Questions

What does multimodal mean?

It's not one trail that can be used 4 different ways, but 4 trails (hiking, biking, and canoe and kayak use).

How are you addressing funding?

We are working with partners as we cannot write grants. Hopefully, the best partner will be the landowners. Each state is funding it differently. A lot of Coastal Zone Management programs have helped.

Lake Michigan Forum – Spring 2015 meeting - highlights

A new awareness tool for the general public will be Lake Michigan Day which will occur on August 14, 2015. Communities and environmental organizations are encouraged to hold related events to bring people to the lakefront! This can be a really neat marketing opportunity.

Please note that the State of Lake Michigan conference will be taking place October 28, 2015 in Traverse City, Michigan.

Eco Ambassadors –Interns 2015

There are some good applicants this year. Lake Forest Openlands is conducting the interviews. Interns will be working 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Major projects will include: Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern monitoring in Bowen Park and the Waukegan Dunal Area; trash pickup weekdays from 8 to 8 a.m. at the Waukegan Swimming Beach; swallow nest counting at the Waukegan Port District recreational harbor docks; work with Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant and the Waukegan Port District on aquatic invasive species education at the public launch area; monarch butterfly way station development; and creation of hydrology reports in the Glen Flora Ravine and on the Waukegan Dunal Area and Swimming Beach.

W.G. Jackson –Summer Waukegan visit

The W.G. Jackson is reserved for the week after 4th of July, 2015. We just received word that the cost went up, but think the funding is sorted out.-Trip slots are already being reserved. Contact us soon if you are interested.

Greenwood School

We started meeting yesterday with 4th and 5th graders who are working on signage illustrations for Bowen Park. They have also gone through the list of predominant bird and flower species, selecting the top 15 to create a trail guide for Bowen Park. The kids are totally engaged!

Waukegan Park District –Live Green Festival –May 17th

Greenwood School sent this idea to the Waukegan Harbor CAG:

Kids like to draw. It might be interesting to have an “illustration booth” where kids are taught to draw birds and animals quickly.

Alderman Lisa May, 7th Ward

The Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project had a hard time with attendance. They are doing two programs with Greenwood and Cook Magnet Schools-and are interested in expanding to other Waukegan schools. It is very important as we become a destination harbor that we teach water safety to the community.

Conserve Lake County –Ravine Issues and Opportunities

Conserve Lake County held a Ravine Issues and Opportunities meeting with presentations directed toward ravine land managers and university ravine research programs. University researchers explained their ravine focus areas of work, on what they are doing and how they are their funding the work, and how internships are handled. The seminar included major universities and land owners from Milwaukee to Evanston. It was thoughtful and well done.

Shrubland Bird Nest Predators

At the most recent Lake-Cook Audubon meeting there was a presentation on nest predation. They used real time video to document nest predators. Weasels are one of the biggest culprits, but surprisingly deer are also eating the birds.

Larsen Marine

Larsen and the US Coast Guard are holding some good marine education courses. Information on these courses will be posted on the Larsen Marine website.

Midwest Great Lakes Society for Ecological Restoration

Midwest Great Lakes Society for Ecological Restoration is having their annual meeting in Chicago. They will be touring Bowen Park on March 29th as part of the event.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Summit –Milwaukee, Wis. –June 23 and 24th, 2015

Just a reminder about the date and location of this year’s Water Summit meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

River Watch Training –College of Lake County –May 16th

The training is on May 16, 2015. The cost is \$50.00.

Remember – Fall 2015 – celebrate “OAKTOBER”

Remember–this year October is to be known as “OAKTOBER”. We want to make people aware of importance of our oak ecosystems, and should start planning for it now!

Textiles in Landfills –85% of all clothes and textiles end up in landfills!

A reminder to try and reuse or donate these materials – don’t throw them away!

FINAL NOTE: Ed Collins, our GLRI avian monitor, is happy to report that they recently had 9 bald eagles at the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) Glacial Park Powers Walker Historic Site!

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Penny Bouchard and seconded by Larry Brewer.
The meeting ended at 8:10pm.

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.