



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297

Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the April 16, 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 April 16, 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 April 16, 2015 CAG Meeting:

Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Thomas Bloom	USEPA
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
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Bill Lebensorger	GLRI Grant Administrator
Heriberto Leon	USEPA
Jamie O'Meara	Waukegan Port District
Matt Ohl	USEPA
Kathy Paap	Lake County Health Department
Charles Rodriguez	USEPA
Rich Romanek	National Gypsum
Ross del Rosario	USEPA
Ania Ruzaj	IDNR
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Diane Tecic	IDNR
Fred Veenbaas	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Christie Bryz-Gornia	AECOM
Rosemary Heilemann	League of Women Voters – Lake County & Lake Michigan REgion
Charlie Hoffman	Lake Forest Open Lands & Concerned Citizen
Susie Hoffman	Lake Forest Open Lands, Intern Coor & Concerned Citizen

Nathaniel Miller Audubon
Serina Ranft AECOM

AGENDA

The Waukegan Park District would like to add an item to the agenda.

MINUTES

There was one correction noted for the March, 2015 minutes. There is a spelling error. Lake Michigan Water Trail should be changed from Trials–to Trails. Pending this correction, Jaimie O’Meara made a motion to accept the minutes. It was seconded by Paul Geiselhart and passed.

UPDATES

USEPA

Outboard Marine Corporation

USEPA is preparing for the final site remedial action field season that will include:

1. Placement of a three-foot soil cover in most of the currently ponded areas;
2. Installation of a liner to the storm water drain on the western side of the site near the Old Die Cast containment cell;
3. Completion of the cover for the Old Die Cast containment cell;
4. Completion of modifications to the new water treatment plant;
5. Excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated concrete and soil from the former Triax Building;
6. Treatment of trichloroethene (TCE) - contaminated soil at the former Triax Building; and
7. Placement of asphalt covers in the western and northern utility areas.

Work is planned to begin in early May 2015, with completion scheduled for the end of July 2015. Tim Drexler USEPA Project Manager, plans to give an update at the May 2015 meeting.

Yeoman Creek

The USEPA is reviewing the Yeoman Creek Remediation Group’s (YCRG) PCB evaluation and the proposed revisions to the long-term monitoring plan. USEPA recently received supporting documentation and data files from YCRG to be able to conduct this review. The USEPA is also preparing a response to the YCRG’s request for clarification of USEPA’s comments regarding Phase 2 measures at the Terrace Nursing Home.

YCRG will inspect quarterly a specific methane detector that had a false alarm recently. This will be done as a normal part of Operations and Maintenance for the next year. YCRG responded to the recent methane alarm notification from the Terrace Nursing Home basement with follow-up testing and investigation, which indicated that false detections triggered the alarm. The YCRG contractor tested each detector and alarm and verified that they are operating properly. They also conducted pressure tests beneath the basement, and ambient basement monitoring, which indicated that it was not methane from the subsurface soils that caused the alarm.–They do not believe that the alarm was representative of a real risk. Instead, YCRG believes that the low alarm set point of 10% lower explosive limit (LEL) is too close to the sensitivity range of the units themselves, or that a stray source of similar gas or other chemicals— e.g. butane, propane, aerosol propellants such as hairspray, cleaning solvents—may have caused the initial false detection that triggered the alarm. (The alarm set point used to be at the 20% LEL.) USEPA

Regional Project Manager, Syed Quadri, reviewed the response to the false alarm, is satisfied with the follow-up work and the proposed quarterly inspection, and is requiring no further action.

North Shore Gas

North Plant: USEPA is waiting for a data summary report that is due later this year from Integrys. This is a necessary step before they submit an initial draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report. This gives the USEPA an opportunity to see if any additional data needs to be gathered. The summary report will probably be prepared in the next month or so. If there are no data gaps, you can expect a draft RI report by fall of 2015 or earlier.

South Plant: A proposed plan for clean-up of dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPL) in the groundwater is expected by the end of May. The feasibility study was just approved. There will be a 30-day public comment period soon. Also, a study was done in 2014 looking at clean-up efforts for DNAPL which will be made available at the site repository.

Questions

Are your findings similar to the findings at the coking site?

No. This is a different site, with different contaminants.

Will we have a copy of the feasibility study when it's available?

It will be at the site repository in the Waukegan Library, and we send an electronic copy to the Waukegan Harbor CAG.

IEPA

From USACE

The Outer Harbor remains to be dredged. Paperwork for approving the dredging has been signed by the IEPA and is on its way. The dredged material from the Outer Harbor will be placed on the Coke Site located on Sea Horse Drive (OMC Op Unit 2). This material will complement the Waukegan Dunal Area.

Where is the sand from the approach channel going?

We do not know.

IDNR

Diane Tecic

Update: As noted in previous meetings IDNR is doing both fish sampling and benthic monitoring this year. We are in the process of finalizing those plans.

Coastal Zone Planning Funds: IDNR has had some preliminary discussions with USEPA about Coastal Zone Planning ending in 2016. A part of the program funding goes to the Waukegan Harbor CAG. USEPA seems to be confident that there will be capacity grants in the future.

Watershed Plans: We have also been discussing how some watershed plans do not accommodate the total maximum daily loads for E. coli. USEPA will not accept plans that don't have this. We are working on the Waukegan River Watershed Plan. The Waukegan Harbor CAG was the lead on the Waukegan River Watershed Plan, *and guided by the IEPA.* We are currently checking with IEPA to see where there are gaps in the plan, and what needs to be brought up to date.

Illinois Wildlife Action Plan: This plan guides the IDNR, and helps with funding from USFWS. It is used by a lot of organizations to focus their efforts. However, there was never a section in the document that focused on the coastal area and Lake Michigan. We are putting together a component for that. Having this addition will also help us get future funding.

Questions

Is it just Waukegan or other watershed plans that need updating?

Many North Shore Illinois plans also require updating to meet current standards, and we are hoping to address them all.

Waukegan Park District

On May 2, 2015 the Park District will be having Community Planting Day here at Bowen Park from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Park District is looking for volunteers to help plant over 10,000 native plugs as part of the Morrison Pavilion Renovation and Ravine Restoration Project. We are expanding the buffer surrounding the Frog Pond. Please join us!

City of Waukegan

Nothing to Report.

CAG BUSINESSS

Margo Milde – International Recognition for our GLRI Floristic Specialist

Margo was recognized by Freshwater Future as a recipient of one of their Great Lakes Grassroots Advocate Awards for 2014. Her work has been critical in establishing the high quality floristic documentation of the Bowen Park Ravine/Upland woods and Waukegan Dunal areas, and “gave quantitative support” for the Waukegan Harbor CAG’s successful 2010 Great Lakes Restoration Grant Application. Congratulations Margo! (See attached article.)

Midwest Great Lakes Society for Ecological Restoration – Bowen Site Tour

Susie Schreiber, Claudia Freeman, Scott MacLean, Bill Lebensorger and Natalie Dutack gave a presentation and site tour of Bowen Park for the Midwest Great Lakes Society for Ecological Restoration on March 29, 2015. There were not many people due to the poor weather, but our visitors were very appreciative. They responded with thanks in a letter:

Dear Susie, Bill, Natalie, and Claudia,

I would like very much to thank you for providing a site tour of Bowen Park during the Midwest-Great Lakes Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration Sixth Annual Meeting this past week. The incredible amount of work that has been, and continues to be done, at the site is part of what drew our attention to Bowen, and we are pleased that you were willing to take the time to share it with our members. I do apologize for the lower-than-expected turnout. Other tours had similar turnout due to the weather, with groups of 5-6 actually in attendance when there were 25-35 people signed up for the trips. However, I was eventually able to connect with one of the attendees that made it to Bowen and he was very enthusiastic about the ravine and the work that has been done there, despite the conditions of the day.

The flora of the ravine at Bowen is of both local and regional importance, especially with the several species of concern that are present. The ravines along Lake Michigan are a unique habitat type and are often degraded or lost. The success at Bowen is important in perhaps spurring other landowners with ravines into action in order to address the invasive species problems that commonly impact these habitats. In addition to the plants at the site, Bowen is also an important stopover for migrating birds, especially with its position along the lakefront. The restoration work that has been undertaken at the site will also benefit not only birds, but also the birdwatching community. Because of the work that Waukegan Parks has done, especially through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the ravine at Bowen is much better off than in the past, and it stands as a testament to what restoration can accomplish. We hope that, by highlighting Bowen Park Ravine as one of our field trip sites, members of our organization will be more aware of your site and the great work that you have done.

On behalf of the Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter, thank you again for offering this field trip option and for making it memorable for those that did attend!

*Sincerely,
Christopher Warneke
Local Planning Committee
Midwest-Great Lakes SER Chapter*

Great Lakes Commission – 2015 Annual Meeting

This year's event will take place at the Drake hotel in Chicago, September 28-29, 2015. The Waukegan Harbor CAG has been invited to apply for Bowen Park to be included as one of the site tours associated with the meeting.

11th Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference

The conference is hosted by Healing Our Waters and is the same date and location as the Great Lake Commission Meeting.

9th Annual State of Lake Michigan Meeting

The meeting is taking place October 28-30, 2015 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme, Michigan.

USACE Stakeholder's Meeting - April 14, 2015

The USACE held the annual stakeholders meeting covering the status of all Great Lakes Harbors at their Chicago offices on April 14th. The F15 and F16 Appropriations, with the additions for ongoing funding, on dredging and maintenance were presented with opportunity for questions. It is important to note the USACE has changed the wording of low use harbors to "emerging harbors", and has removed the "level of tonnage transported yearly" to and from each harbor as a condition for providing annual maintenance funding. This is a positive step for Waukegan, as our harbor does not transport 10,000 tons annually.

The meeting was very well presented, the issues were clearly defined, and ample time for questions and discussion was provided. Cong. Dold's office was present as well as Waukegan Harbor CAG representatives. We had the opportunity to discuss the disrepair of the seawall along the north side of the Entrance Channel to Waukegan Harbor, and the next steps to be taken before repairs can begin, with the Col. Drew and his key staff members after the meeting.

What if you were to put on additional cover?

You would need a plan, and it would need to go through the USEPA. The current plan would have to be amended.

Does USEPA have authority to require the landowner to have a thicker cap?

No, what we have is as far as we can go.

Are there any cost estimates for a thicker cap?

No.

The Borrow Pit area has been dredged to the perimeter road that goes around it, and is now open water. Will that remain wet?

Yes.

EPA Region 5 Superfund Redevelopment Initiative for the Johns Manville property

Tom Bloom

Re-development needs to be approved by USEPA for reuse. You *can* put in whatever you want with a lot of money, but that's not realistic. Challenges include stigma, the public's safety concerns, and the health of people and the environment. There also is the liability of owning the site and the market – if no one wants to use the site, or real estate is down, there are issues. Many Superfund sites have reuse potential, but are vacant and abandoned due to lack of knowledge about the sites components, the range of safe potential uses, and the key steps and players needed to reuse the site.

Our goals are to get long term stewardship, help build public interest/ concern, and prevent re-abuse of site. The program helps to bring stakeholders to the table, clarify remedy constraints, and outline suitable reuse options for the community to pursue.

The Reuse Support Processes we provide, in coordination with Skeo Solutions, are:

- Situation Assessment – Gather stakeholder goals and perspectives;
- Reuse stability Evaluation – Identify potential future uses;
- Stakeholder Working Session – Refine reuse options and identify action items to advance a plan; and
- Reuse Framework - Reuse strategy to inform remedial and local planning processes.

For more information please visit:

Superfund Redevelopment Program: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/>

Skeo Solutions: <http://www.skeo.com/services/category/superfund>

Questions

Is this process going forward for this mapped Superfund site?

Yes.

Are you working with Skeo Solutions?

Yes

Do you have an idea of the time frame?

We need to get it done by end of the calendar year.

Does anything change if the parcel were to become part of Illinois Beach State Park (IBSP)?

No. The “no use” rule would still apply.

Is there a passive use for the site?

Yes, there is a lot of data. One of the less expensive options would be to have a nature viewing area. Ed Collins noted in his Avian Monitoring Report that the site is prime grassland bird habitat. It could also be a buffer to IBSP. As of now, Johns Mansville has worked with IDNR and the GLRI grant partners to come up with a seed mix for native vegetation using local genotypes so it won't have a negative impact on the nature preserve.

Who is responsible for the site after work is complete?

USEPA and IEPA

The asbestos sand pile is being put in the industrial canal. Is there a mandate?

A study was conducted on the contamination levels in the sand pile, and there is a lot more clean sand out there than we thought there was. The sand we are moving is clean, or we couldn't move it.

Who has the lab reports?

Midwest Generation paid for the reports and gave them to AECOM. Johns Manville paid for the next round of tests because they wanted to use the sand as fill in the green area on the map.

Illinois Coastal Zone Management Assessment

The members of the Waukegan Harbor CAG reviewed the IDNR's 309 Document and pointed out some edits, some concerns, and several areas that needed more clarification for the general public filling out this survey.

IDNR took on the Illinois Coastal Zone Management Program (ICMP) several years ago. Every 5 years the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requires an assessment of our coastal property (the Illinois shoreline). This assessment is used to determine problems and opportunities within nine specific enhancement areas. It is known as the Section 309 Document. Successful completion of the document will make ICMP eligible to receive additional funding from NOAA to accomplish strategies identified in the document.

ICMP would like to state, for the record, that this was confusing even for them, and it has taken them a while to get through it. Others working in the public sector agreed with this statement.

The 9 enhancement areas are:

- Wetlands
- Coastal Hazards
- Public Access
- Marine Debris
- Cumulative and Secondary Impacts
- Special area management plan
- Great Lakes Resources
- Energy and government facility siting

- Aquaculture

In Phase 1, evaluations are performed for all nine enhancement areas. During Phase 2, further assessments are conducted for areas ranked HIGH through the Phase 1 evaluation. The IDNR will focus on those areas ranked as HIGH.

Priority Ratings

Enhancement Area	Phase I Priority
Wetlands	Medium
Coastal hazards	High
Public access	High
Marine debris	Medium
Cumulative and secondary impacts	Medium
Special area management plans	Medium
Great Lakes resources	Medium
Energy and government facility siting	High
Aquaculture	Low

IDNR Coastal Zone convened a stakeholder meeting with our Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on October 31, 2014 and with our Coastal Advisory Group on November 3, 2014. During these meetings ~~we~~IDNR Coastal Zone created ways to rank the priorities required in the 309 assessment. Now IDNR Coastal Zone is at the extended 30-day public input phase and is seeking commentary from the CAG and partners. Your comments will be added to the assessment when completed. This project has to lead to a change in program, boundaries, laws, and memorandums of understanding.

The Waukegan Harbor CAG will provide a final assessment and commentary to the ICMP with the input from this meeting, and is noting the following items:

There was no prioritization of wetlands in the coastal area, why was this?

Wetlands received a ranking of medium. IDNR preferred going in the direction of restoring wetlands with other funds.

Why are coastal wetlands incorporated into the Coastal Hazards strategy?

ICMP stakeholders on the TAC and CAG ranked wetlands as HIGH. The ICMP (IDNR) determined it can partially address some of issues with wetlands through the Hazards section, as there is more money in the-Hazard section. For example, by protecting wetlands, the hazards of stormwater runoff/ management issues are being addressed.

Tsunamis should be changed to seiches, as we are a lake - not an ocean, and do not have Tsunamis.

The Great Lakes Naval Base should be included as part of the shoreline habitat to be managed – they are interested in cleaning their harbor.

Erosion in ravines should be prioritized as well. There is too much development along the bluffs.

Monarch Butterfly focus

The recent National Wildlife Magazine, with an excellent cover story on Monarchs butterflies was passed out for those present to see.

Waukegan Beach and Boardwalk

All of the floristic, avian, amphibian and hydrological data generated under the GLRI grant is currently being merged in order to get a real time understanding of the ecological condition of the Waukegan Dunal Area and Swimming Beach, and to provide future management direction for these highly significant areas. Discussions and meetings with the Chicago Botanic Garden on potential boardwalk placement and priority habitat protection at the dunes has taken place based on all the data collected. The next step will be to work with the City of Waukegan, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, the IDNR and other partners to create a viable boardwalk plan suitable for both protection of the Waukegan Dunal habitat and to meet the recreational needs of this region of Lake County, Illinois.

Waukegan Park District Live Green Festival

The Waukegan Park District's Live Green Festival will take place Sunday, May 17, 2015. Please join us!

We will discuss the rest of the tonight's topics at next month's meeting. These include:

- *Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve Open Informational Meeting*
- *Evanston North Shore Bird Club – Bird Calls Article*
- *River Watch Training*
- *This Fall, celebrate "OAKTOBER"*
- *Water Summit*
- *Lake Michigan Day*

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Claudia Freeman and seconded by Larry Brewer. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:33 pm.

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 Water Reclamation 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.