



## Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297

Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

**Minutes of the May 21, 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 May 21, 2015, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:10 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 May 21, 2015 CAG Meeting:**

<b>Penny Bouchard</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Larry Brewer</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Tom Chefalo</b>	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
<b>Natalie Dutack</b>	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
<b>Tim Drexler</b>	USEPA
<b>Claudia Freeman</b>	Waukegan Park District
<b>Paul Geiselhart</b>	Lake County Audubon
<b>Charlie Hoffmann</b>	Lake Forest Open Lands & Concerned Citizen
<b>Paul Kakuris</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Bill Lebensorger</b>	GLRI Grant Administrator
<b>Heriberto Leon</b>	USEPA
<b>Lisa May</b>	City of Waukegan Alderman 7th
<b>Jamie O'Meara</b>	Waukegan Port District
<b>Rich Romanek</b>	National Gypsum
<b>Ross del Rosario</b>	USEPA
<b>Ania Ruzaj</b>	IDNR
<b>Susie Schreiber</b>	Illinois Audubon
<b>Diane Tecic</b>	IDNR
<b>Fred Veenbaas</b>	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station
<b>Barbara Wallace</b>	Concerned Citizen

### **GUESTS:**

<b>Jared Dellinger</b>	Greater Waukegan Development Corp.
<b>William Eley</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Rosemary Heilemann</b>	League of Women Voters – Lake County & Lake Michigan REGION
<b>Eli Lechter</b>	Huerr Schaudt
<b>Dave Longo</b>	IDNR
<b>Alex Morgan</b>	Sierra Club
<b>John Scudfri</b>	Huerr Schaudt
<b>Amy Weller</b>	Concerned Citizen

## **AGENDA**

Three additions to the agenda were made, and are covered under Announcements.

## **MINUTES**

It was noted that the Waukegan Harbor CAG has recently had some nice comments on how thorough the Waukegan Harbor CAG minutes are, and that they give a good overview of Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern current projects and issues. A motion to accept the April 2015 minutes was made Claudia Freeman and seconded by Larry Brewer. The motion carried and the minutes were passed.

## **UPDATES**

### **USEPA** – *Heriberto Leon*

#### **Yeoman Creek** – Heriberto Leon

USEPA is working with the Yeoman Creek Remediation Group (YCRG) to clarify the Agency's interpretation of applicable regulatory provisions governing methane measurements at the Terrace Nursing Home's backyard and the YCRG's proposed response actions.

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USEPA is also finalizing comments on the proposed revisions to the Long-Term Monitoring Plan for the Yeoman Creek site. USEPA expects to be sending its comments to the YCRG later this month.

The Agency is also preparing comments on a report on the five-year review action items for the sediment and wetland soil data at the site. This report is focused on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at the Yeoman site. USEPA expects to finalize and submit its comments to YCRG in the next two weeks.

### **IEPA**

*Nothing to report.*

### **IDNR** - *Diane Tecic*

#### **Section 309 Document**

Your comments on the 309 plan were received, and IDNR really appreciates having them. All of the comments will be incorporated into final document, which will be followed by our responses. Thank you so much!

#### **Fish, Benthic, and Phytoplankton Sampling**

Waukegan Harbor is an Area of Concern (AOC) on the Great Lakes. There is also the Waukegan Harbor Extended AOC, which includes a large area. There were 6 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) listed for the Waukegan Harbor AOC and Extended AOC. -Delisting takes a long time. Three of the BUIs have been addressed. The remaining three BUIs are:

1. fish consumption,
2. benthic communities, and
3. phytoplankton/zooplankton.

The management actions (dredging and removal of the harbor contaminated sediments) have been

completed, and we now are testing these organisms to see how they are responding in a clean environment.

Fish Sampling will take place this year in Waukegan Harbor. Pre-dredging fish samples were taken in 2012. Hopefully the 2015 samples will show some post-dredging changes. Five to six fish species will be collected this season. IEPA will process fish samples, and we should have results back early next year.

Benthos samplers have already been deployed in the harbor for the 2015 season. By this coming September we should have all sampling done. USGS will do the analysis, assessment and processing of the benthic, zooplankton and phytoplankton samples.

### Questions

*Where will you publish the results?*

IDNR will bring them to a Waukegan Harbor CAG meeting, and they will be posted on the Waukegan Harbor CAG website.

Editors' note: corrections to the minutes reflect the appropriate answers to the questions after checking with the agencies and Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan-2008 (known as the Lake Michigan LaMP)

*Do the levels of PCBs in fish from the harbor have to match the acceptable levels of those in lake?*

Acceptable levels of PCBs are measured the same way by IEPA for Waukegan Harbor and USEPA for Lake Michigan. The difference is IEPA and USEPA test for different end results.

- The Illinois EPA and the Illinois Dept. of Health are testing for public health reasons and just look at the meat – the filets - which is the part of the fish people eat.
- The USEPA is testing for the ecological status of the Lake Michigan aquatic food chain. They put the entire fish in a blender and look for a representation of the contaminant in the Lake Michigan aquatic food chain.

For the Fish Consumption Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) removal, the end test contaminant levels have to be the same. IDNR will probably do another round of fish sampling in Waukegan Harbor 2017.

*Are the International Joint Commission (IJC) standards taken into consideration?*

The IJC may give some deference to the local agency on the AOC, to determine what the delisting criteria will be. The Waukegan Harbor CAG /IEPA came up with the updated criteria (circa 2008). That is the data we are using to guide our current testing protocol.

The international Joint Commission (IJC) does not set fish advisories. It sets policy goals and states that Lake Michigan should be maintained as an oligotrophic lake.

The USEPA, USF&W and all eight Great Lakes meet through a special committee to arrive at the health standards to which they all agree. The Illinois Department of Public Health and the IEPA are the State of Illinois representatives on this committee. The group works continuously with current data to provide Waukegan Harbor and Lake Michigan Fish Consumption Advisories.

*Are the standards for Lake Michigan something the IJC agreed to?*

See above. The international Joint Commission (IJC) does not set fish advisories. It sets policy goals and states that Lake Michigan should be maintained as an oligotrophic lake.

### **Waukegan Park District**

*Nothing to report.*

### **City of Waukegan**

They City would like to say thank you very much for the Eco Ambassador program this year! We are very appreciative.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Ken Larsen, of Larsen Marina down at the harbor, passed away in April after a long illness. The Waukegan Harbor CAG sent a condolence card to the family. We also wanted to acknowledge Ken's long interest in the remediation of Waukegan Harbor and the excellent contributions his family company has made in providing eco-friendly state of the art marina services to the boaters of this area. As some of you are aware that we have, one of the best marinas in Illinois
- Greenwood School students have created drawings of bird species found at Bowen Park to be used in informational signage for the park.
- The Live Green Family Festival was successful. There were sightings of many red headed woodpeckers in Bowen that day.

### **CAG BUSINESS**

#### **2015 Eco Ambassadors**

We are working with Lake forest Openlands Center for Conservation Leadership again this year. There are four (4) Eco Ambassadors:

1. Celeste Acosta - Dennison University,
2. Adrian Diaz - Northland College,
3. Brian Acosta - Swathmore College, Majoring in fiction writing, linguistics,
4. Amanda Bozorgi - Middlebury College, Majoring in Environmental education.

We are very excited to have them! They are going to be working on some interesting projects:

- Chicago Botanic Gardens - continuing our POC monitoring;
- Hydrology studies – Glen Flora Ravine and the Waukegan Dunal Area and Swimming Beach;
- Waukegan Port District and Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant - preventing the spread of aquatic invasives/boat cleaning;
- USGS and Cornell Lab of Ornithology - Swallow nest monitoring under the recreational docks;
- Waukegan Park District Day Camp and First Baptist Church of Waukegan - Cool Learning Experience – providing some ecological teaching experiences at Bowen Park; and
- City of Waukegan – weekday trash removal from the open trash cans at the lakefront.

## Update on Final OMC Clean-Up - Tim Drexler, USEPA

USEPA is about ready to start the final field season for OMC Superfund site. The site was divided into 4 operable units.

*Operable Unit 1* – Waukegan Harbor  
Completed

*Operable Unit 2* – Former location of the Waukegan Manufactured Gas and Coke Plant  
Operations are currently being conducted. The site was cleaned to the industrial standards. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the dredging the Outer Harbor now and placing 75,000 cubic yards of sediment over the Operable Unit 2 site. This sand amount is less than originally anticipated. Dredging was started May 8<sup>th</sup>. At the present time, 25,000 cubic yards has been removed and placed over Operable Unit 2 site. Additional fill will be needed at the Operable Unit 2 site to bring it to the City of Waukegan's desired residential standard – a total of three additional feet. All dredging should be done by the end of this calendar year.

*Operable Unit 3* – PCB Containment Cells from original harbor dredging 1990-93  
The original containment cells are the east and west sites on the north side of the property and the third cell is slip number 3. In 2015 USEPA will develop a far-ranging agreement for future maintenance of the cells.

*Operable Unit 4* – OMC Plant 2 (site of the million square foot OMC manufacturing facility)  
This is where most of USEPA's work is being done this year. There are now 5 containment cells on the property. The original east, west and slip 3 cells contain PCB contamination. The consolidation facility (between the east and west cells) holds 126,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the harbor. It was capped in 2014.

The old Die Cast plant had to have a cell developed around it –it would be too cost prohibitive to clean this site completely. There are slurry walls that turn the cell into a tub. There are wells within the tub that extract water out to keep an inward gradient of ground water. This keeps these cells from leaking.

USEPA has created a new water treatment system and is now working with North Shore Water Reclamation District to treat the water. The ammonia content of the water is too high to discharge into the north ditch. USEPA is going to be finished up with the old Die Cast cell by the year's end. The last step will be to put vegetative cover on top of this cell.

The old Triax building was recently demolished by the City of Waukegan so USEPA can now remove the low level contaminated foundation concrete slab and the contaminated soil beneath it. Due to the water table level at this site, we could not treat all the way down for PCBs. There is still low level contamination. Three feet of clean fill will go over these areas.

We have also identified ninety (90) 50'x50' cells in the area that will need 3 foot of fill. We will be filling in most of the ponded areas. Most of the cells are contiguous and associated with the ponds. This work will be initiated next month. We hope to be done in August. As late as 1970 there used to be a wetland in that area

### Questions

*Where does soil come from for the ponded area?*

This depends on the source from subcontractor. We have used local sources in the past. Soil fill is all tested and approved before it comes on property.

*How many trucks will be using Sea Horse Drive a day during this process?*

There could be up to 100 a day.

*Will Operable Unit 2 be brought up to residential standards?*

Unfortunately less sediment will be dredged than anticipated. So we won't be able to bring it up to those 3 feet of fill. It would be the responsibility of the City or developer to provide the remaining fill.

*Is the OMC site 2 one large tax parcel, because it is very complex?*

I don't know.

*Will there be restrictive covenants on the OMC site 2 and the Slip 3 containment cell?*

Yes. We will have monitoring wells in for perpetuity. Need to make sure whoever owns/acquires the property follows covenant. USEPA will conduct 5- year review to ensure that everything is going to plan. There will be representatives out every 6 months to a year in between the 5 year reviews. I will bring in some Soil Management Plans from other sites to show you the level of detail in our planning.

*You mentioned the Approach Channel. What happens to material dredged from this area?*

Open water disposal south of the harbor.

*Where is the ammonia coming from? Has it always been there?*

Yes, it is really fine material. Over eons the ammonia develops and accrues in the area.

*Have there been discussions with City about the massive amount of trucking?*

Certainly. I keep in close touch with the City Engineer, Scott Prindiville.

### **Lake Michigan Water Trails – Eli Lecter**

The idea/concept is to connect the four states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan with a multimodal hiking, biking, and canoe/kayak Lake Michigan water trail system.

The immediate goal is to have stop off points every 5 miles along the trail. Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin already have good stop off points in place. Now we are working to build stop off spots on the Illinois shoreline from Winthrop Harbor down through Chicago. Several days ago we met on site with the Waukegan Harbor CAG, the Waukegan Port District and the IDNR to look at stop off opportunities in Waukegan Harbor. People are going to be kayaking, hiking, and biking in to the Waukegan Trailhead. IDNR already has directional maps and signage ready for placement at the harbor.

The beach is beautiful, but beaches have a lot of problems as trailheads. They are not the best stopping point, and can have climate related issues. Beaches can drastically change size and shape in weather. The Waukegan Harbor public launch area is a good choice for the trailhead. It does need a little work such as minor rubble removal and some sand added in, but already has the amenities in place which users need.

We work with the following basic check list at all Lake Michigan Water Trail stop offs:

- Main Considerations
  - Appropriate site
  - Accessibility
  - Cost
  - Environmental Factors
- Needs
  - Legal Access
  - Safe launch
  - Parking
  - Way finding
  - Accessibility
- Basic trail amenities:
  - Accessible launch
  - Restrooms
  - Directional signage
  - Bike parking
  - Designated car parking
  - Storage racks for canoes/kayaks/paddle boards
  - Food
  - Showers

Additional amenity examples from other successful trailheads:

- Have public launch, near an outfitter, as well as a public/private launch
- Picnic areas with grills and seating.
- Interpretative, location, and directional signage.
- Historic/Cultural attractions, restaurants
- Near recreational areas, like sports parks.

The Waukegan Trailhead can be accomplished in a lot of small steps. It is not easy to find the harbor in Waukegan. We want signage that is unified all the way through Illinois. The immediate need is signage for drivers and bikers. Then storage should be addressed.

A lot of North Shore communities are restricted beaches, but times are changing. The area is not really accessible for bikers, but it's envisioned that we will have a designated bike route closer to the lake.

### Questions / Comments

*Where is the launch in relation to the public boat launch?*

In the same place. -We can take a section just on the north side of Government Pier.

*Have you been working with someone from the City of Waukegan and the Waukegan Port District?*

Yes, we are working with the Waukegan Port District as they are the land owners at the site. The City of Waukegan will be approached for permission to install the directional signage. We are concurrently working with IDNR and WDNR for an 11 mile stretch of lake trail from Lake County, Illinois into southern Wisconsin.

*Is there a time line?*

We just started. As soon as we get approval, the directional signs would be the first to go in, followed by the site grading and sand addition.

It was noted that an Emergency Rescue call box might be good item to have at the Trailhead.

### **North Shore Gas South Site - Proposed DNAPL Removal**

About a month ago USEPA proposed a cleanup plan for addressing the major source of groundwater, DNAPL contamination at the North Shore Gas South Plant site. This site has a significant volume of DNAPL. DNAPL can be solvent cleaners, degreasers, TCE, PCB, Creosote, etc. It is a solvent that doesn't readily dissolve in water and sinks under water.

We are proposing to address the 500 thousand gallons of DNAPL on site by the installation of a series of horizontal wells into the groundwater and DNAPL media. These are much less intrusive than vertical wells. The wells will be injected with treated groundwater which will force DNAPL into recovery wells/sumps. We are removing the DNAPL and trucking it off-site to be treated in a permanent facility. Groundwater taken to the onsite treatment facility will be cleaned to Illinois state standards.

We are estimating about 8 years to meet performance standards. North Shore Gas is working with USEPA to determine the end point. Our goal is remove the mobile portion of DNAPL. This will cost \$10 million dollars.

The 30 day public comment period started on May 6, 2015 and all of your comments need to be in by June 5, 2015.

Next steps: We take your comments, review and respond to them. Based on the results, we either stick with original plan or will create a new one. We will probably reach a Record of Decision (ROD) before the end of fall. USEPA will negotiate with North Shore Gas for the design and construction. The design is expected to take two years. Cleanup of the North Shore Gas site will be a lot of work. USEPA considers this particular project an interim measure. Once we remove the source of groundwater contamination, we need to have a final decision on the treatment of the contaminated ground water and vapors.

### **Questions**

*There is a vision for the lakefront and re-development – why are we going with the longer remedy?*

USEPA goes through a 9-criteria evaluation. State and federal laws and cleanup standards must be met. Then, we get into balancing criteria, cost, and implementability. Also, remember that this is a proposed alternative, not final plan. There is more detail in the proposed plan. Voice your opinion!

*Can you tell us more about vapors by the Waukegan Port District?*

There are some vapors in the Maintenance Building (Chloroform). It is being addressed onsite. The vapors are not from the superfund site. We don't know if there is a need for additional treatment.

*Are you having any trouble accessing Akzo Nobel?*

Akzo Nobel has granted the gas company access to take samples. There were a couple of hits and some contaminants, but not to the same extent as at the Waukegan Port District Maintenance Buildings. The source of the contaminants is unknown. The groundwater is the media that carries the contamination.

*What will "treated water" be treated with?*

Activated carbon filtration.

*Do you run the risk of pushing the contamination towards the lake?*  
That will be measured and taken into consideration in the design phase.

### **US Army Corps of Engineers**

This week USACE had a public open house in Highland Park, IL to discuss a contaminant issue at the Lake County Fort Sheridan Lakefront preserve. A third meeting will be held on June 15-19, 2015. They are currently making sure there is no left over ordinance (i.e. no hand grenades) on site.

### **Cool Learning Experience**

We are in our 8<sup>th</sup> year this summer. We provide an interdisciplinary STEM based curriculum. Sixty of our students are at or below poverty level. We have a lot of wonderful people who have donated to allow children to come to program to a reduced fee and 40% have full or partial scholarships. Please take a brochure and consider supporting our program!

### **W.G. Jackson**

The W.G. Jackson research ship is reserved for the week after 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This year's event is funded by GLRI, with help from Midwest Generation/NRG Energy.

### **Questions**

*Do you need volunteers for that day?*

Volunteers are welcome! We also have the Eco Ambassadors participating.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- In September, 2015, the League of Women Voters will have a meeting right before the Great Lakes Commission for those interested.
- Everyone is invited to the Waukegan Yacht Club tomorrow night to meet the new Waukegan Port District Director. The new menu will also be unveiled! Join us!
- Look at the Peregrine Falcon webcam – the Midwest Generation falcon family is out and feeding their babies!

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Geiselhart and seconded by Jamie O'Meara. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:13 pm.

## **CAG Members**

*Abbott Laboratories  
Akzo Nobel  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
Bombardier Recreational Products  
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  
NRG Inc. – Waukegan Station  
National Gypsum  
North Shore Gas  
North Shore Water Reclamation District  
Outboard Marine Corporation  
Salmon Unlimited  
Sierra Club – Illinois Chapter*

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## **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.