



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297

Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the June 18, 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 June 18, 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 June 18, 2015 CAG Meeting:

Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Amanda Bozorhi	CAG Eco Ambassador
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Barb Cornew	Concerned Citizen
Adrian Diaz Jr	CAG Eco Ambassador
Natalie Dutack	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Frank Furlan	City of Waukegan Public Works Department
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Bill Lebensorger	GLRI Grant Administrator
Heriberto Leon	USEPA
Chris Logan	City of Waukegan
Lauren Luebker	AKZO Nobel
Alexander Morgan	Sierra Club
Scott Myers	JM
Jamie O'Meara	Waukegan Port District
Steve Robillard	IDNR
Ania Ruszaj	IDNR
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Chris Tanner	Tanner Environmental
Diane Tecic	IDNR
Brent Tracy	JM
Fred Veenbaas	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station

GUESTS:

Rosemary Heilemann	League of Women Voters – Lake County & Lake Michigan Region
Christina Nannicelli	Sierra Club
Verena Owen	Concerned Citizen / Sierra Club
Serina Runft	AECOM

AGENDA

No Additions

MINUTES

The May minutes are ready. They just need some corrections and will be sent our later.

UPDATES

USEPA

See presentation notes below.

IEPA

Nothing to report.

IDNR

Diane Tecic

Fish, Benthic, and Phytoplankton Sampling

Fisheries technicians are here tonight and they have gone out and done sampling.

USGS is heading up benthos and plankton sampling. They getting samples now and we are on target.

Other news

The Illinois Coastal Management Program (ICMP) sponsored a beach safety workshop on June 6th that was well attended. It focused on hazardous currents and reached out to the audience that needs to know the most information about them.

ICMP is also participating in multi-state efforts to coordinate communications about lake conditions. We will try to get a link to share on the Waukegan Harbor CAG website.

Waukegan Park District

They wanted to share that the Dandelion Wine Festival (Bowen Park) went very well this year. There were over 50 artists and musicians. Greenwood school showed up for about 1.5 hours. A total of 2500 people came this year!

City of Waukegan

Nothing to Report.

CAG BUSINESSS

2015 Eco Ambassadors

The Eco Ambassadors will be introducing themselves and talk about what they are doing. They will be working 8:00am-12:00pm Monday through Friday.

They are going to be working the following partners on some interesting projects:

- Chicago Botanic Gardens - POC monitoring,
- Hydrology studies,
- Waukegan Port District - Preventing the spread of invasives/boat cleaning,
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology -Swallow monitoring reports,
- Waukegan Park District - Day Camp / Cool Learning Experience, and
- City of Waukegan - Final phase on trash removal at lakefront.

USACE Outer Harbor Dredging

Two huge dredges are working on the outer harbor right now. Since the end of May they have been moving clean material out and placing it on the coke site (OMC Op Unit 2). The coke site has been cleaned to commercial standards. The City of Waukegan needs an additional 3 feet of clean fill to bring the site up to use for residential standards. This clean dredge material will be part of it.

USEPA

Each cleanup site in Waukegan had a Community Involvement Plan (CIP) written up - this took over 1 ½ years, resulting in the final, multi-site CIP. The objective of the CIP is to see what the community wants at the site, what their perceptions and expectations are, what kind of engagement they have had, etc.

An important first step in the process are the community interviews. After 20 years of work and hard labor that has gone into the cleanup of the site it was great to hear how much people care. For the most part, people have some knowledge about what is going on. Highlights from interviews:

- Some got discouraged because the CAG meetings were too technical.
- Others were worried about how long it has taken and the cost.
- Most people got their information from CAG meetings or word of mouth.
- People also gave a lot of ideas on how to talk to the community outside of the CAG (newsletters, email, etc).
- Mayor Motley noted that the presence of the Latino community as vital to the future of Waukegan.
- Many had questions about redevelopment and reuse.

The full community interview results are available on the website.

The multiple sites addressed in the CIP are broken into two categories. Three of these sites are being addressed under the **Superfund** program – Johns Manville Corporation, Outboard Marine Corporation, and Yeoman Creek Landfill. The North Shore Gas North and South Plants are being addressed under USEPA's **Superfund Alternative Sites** program.

Similar to the Superfund process, the USEPA:

- goes out to gather data (site inspection),

- creates a plan (remedial investigation/feasibility),
- conducts and verifies cleanup (remedial action through delisting), and
- finally reaches the reuse stage

The CIP process will begin by engaging the community and creating a plan based on the data gathered. The next step will be posting information online so we can get input.

The CAG has some feedback on the report and we will discuss this in future meetings.

Waukegan Harbor Bi-National Clean-up

Susie Schreiber presented a history of the Waukegan Harbor AOC to Area of Recovery. Some significant points:

- In 1845 what we recognize as the harbor was under 14 feet of water.
- Government Pier was installed in 1890 for industrialization. That began to trap some of the sand that was out in the lake. There is a mile wide strip of sand that is working its way to the Indiana Dunes. From this point on the shoreline built up.
- Waukegan is the county seat because of the harbor and the industrial activity that grew around it.
- The USEPA found PCBs in 1975 originating from what is now known as the OMC Superfund Site. OMC didn't know oil contained PCBs and they didn't know what the human health hazards were.
- In 1981, 43 Areas of Concern defined on the Great Lakes. The Waukegan Harbor AOC was one of these. The following Beneficial Use Impairments were identified:
 - Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
 - **Beach closings - removed September 2011**
 - Degradation of benthos
 - Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations
 - **Restriction on dredging activities - removed July 2014**
 - **Loss of fish and wildlife habitat - removed August 2013**
- From 1992-93 the harbor sediments were dredged by OMC, removing 1 million pounds of PCBs.
- In 1993 PCB levels dropped and fish consumption signs were removed. We had to continue to test to confirm the continued dropped levels but instead the levels rose again.
- In 2001 we learned that there was this area in the harbor not owned by anybody and we had to work with congressmen to expand the boundaries of the Federal harbor. Once Mark Kirk, then a US Representative currently a Senator, got involved, things started happening.
- 2012-2014 dredging of the harbor was completed. Removal of the **Restriction on dredging activities** BUI occurred in 2014.
- 2015 – the last OMC building comes down and the building property cleanup nears completion.

Questions

Did we ever find out why some fish spike more than others?

Without knowing where they were caught, we are not sure. This could be species dependent issue. A lot of samples were taken from Carp.

New Business

Please note – the Bombardier building will be torn down and testing will need to be conducted on the soils beneath it. USEPA may need to do more work based on the findings. This will be discussed more at future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting ended at 8:19pm.

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.