



Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group

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Minutes of the October 15, 2015, CAG meeting held at Lilac Cottage, Waukegan Park District, Waukegan respectfully submitted by Thomas Chefalo, acting as Recording Secretary of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group.

The October 15, 2015, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:00 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 October 15, 2015 CAG Meeting:

Kevin Adler	USEPA
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Heriberto León	USEPA
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Rich Romanek	National Gypsum
Joe Seidemann	Waukegan Port District
Susie Schreiber	Waukegan Harbor CAG
Fred Veenbaas	NRG Waukegan Station
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Julio Guzman	Lake County Nature Network
Rosemary Heilemann	League of Women Voters – Lake County
Larissa Herrera	GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (Huff & Huff)
Jack Kaskel	Red Buffalo Nursery
Tim O'Leary	Concerned Citizen

AGENDA

There were no additions made to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting are still under review.

UPDATES

USEPA – Heriberto León

North Shore Gas sites - (Former Manufactured Gas Plants)

Remedial Project Manager Ross del Rosario is on a 120-day detail to Water Division (Oct 4, 2015 thru Jan 30, 2016). Several RPMs have temporary management of his MGP sites for him.

South Plant:

Syed Quadri will be overseeing the South Plant site until Ross returns.

Negotiations were completed on September 24, 2015 for the design of the DNAPL remedy. Integrys (now WEC) agreed to conduct the DI (Remdial Design) under an Administrative Order of Consent (AOC). USEPA will later begin another round of negotiations with the gas company concerning the implementation of the DNAPL remedy. A consent decree (CD) will be the enforcement instrument used for this next round of negotiations and the State has indicated it wants to be a party to this settlement. A CD for implementing the DNAPL remedy is not expected to be completed until mid-2016 when the design is planned to be nearly complete.

North Plant:

The North Plant site will be temporarily reassigned in January, but in the meantime Kevin Adler will be overseeing the site.

A draft Remedial Investigation report is expected before the end of the year. An RI summary report, describing the initial results of the investigation at the site, will be presented to USEPA for discussion before the draft RI is prepared.

Yeoman Creek Landfill

The 2015 annual monitoring event is being conducted on October 13 through 14, 2015, and this sampling episode will encompass all of the USEPA approved changes in monitoring locations, frequency and or parameters. The USEPA approved biweekly landfill gas monitoring is also being conducted routinely with no significant changes. The Responsible Parties are planning to submit a revised Phase II Remediation Plan early November, 2015 for addressing the methane exceedances at the Terrace Nursing Home parking lot.

Johns Manville

Goals for the site include preventing exposure to or release of asbestos containing materials (ACM) or asbestos fibers. On September 30, 2015, representatives from the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Johns Manville Corp. met at the site to discuss the need for a remedy at Operable Unit (OU) 06, also known as Site 1 or the Nature Preserve Road. OU 06 concerns include that asbestos containing materials are visible at the

surface after the last pickup of ACM in April 2015 in this environmentally sensitive area and a remedy has not been proposed to the public.

JM continues to remove soils and ACM debris from OU 04 on the western boundary of the site. JM continues to operate dewatering pumps along the western property boundary. The water is being discharged to the North Shore Water Reclamation District. JM placed soil containing ACM that is 8" or smaller in the Industrial Canal along the northern property boundary. Soil with larger debris is being placed in a stockpile as USEPA reviews JM's request to consolidate it in the Black Ditch Area of the site. Final cover is being installed at west end of Industrial Canal. About 2,000 to 2,400 cubic yards of clean sand from Midwest Generation/NRG, Inc. is also being brought to the site daily for placement on the Former Manufacturing Area (OU 05). This work is expected to continue until winter weather precludes it.

Outboard Marine Corporation

USEPA reached the construction completion major milestone for the entire OMC site on September 30, 2015! We are now completing "punch list" tasks for the OMC Plant 2 site, with the goal of being completely off the site by December 2015. Residual piles of contaminated dirt or concrete from the Triax building work will be removed, frack tanks are being cleaned out for reuse, and the storm drain sleeve needs to be installed. Some re-seeding of caps over the sediment and PCB cells will also be conducted soon. USEPA is routinely sampling the groundwater plume areas on the OMC Plant 2 site, and by next summer ~~we~~ will decide if another round of permanganate injection will be necessary. The Army Corps of Engineers is nearing completion of its dredging work in the Outer Harbor. It is estimated that 80,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed for maintenance depth purposes. The clean sediment is being piled up on the Waukegan Coke Plant operable unit site 2 for use by the City of Waukegan, the current site owner.

USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers

No updates were presented at this meeting.

IDNR – Illinois Department of Natural Resources

No updates were presented at this meeting.

IEPA - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

No updates were presented at this meeting.

City of Waukegan

No updates were presented at this meeting.

CAG BUSINESS

Ramsar Banner – Susie Schreiber

On September 25, 2015 the Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain was designated as the 38th US Wetland of International Importance. It is designated as Ramsar site number 2243 and includes 3,914 acres. There are over 2,200 site internationally including over 25 million acres.

The designated area includes the Glen Flora Ravine in Bowen Park. The Waukegan CAG and the Waukegan Park District provided documentation, that covered the restoration work and biological inventories that were conducted in the ravine, to the selection committee.

Great Lakes Commission 2015 Annual Meeting – Susie Schreiber

The Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting and the Great Lakes Restoration Conference were held in Chicago at the end of September, 2015. The meetings were well attended. During the restoration conference, it was recognized that there has been no formal process identified for storing and organizing the data that has been collected during restoration work under GLRI and associated grants. In addition, the US Maritime Administration complimented the Waukegan Park Port District and its new director.

League of Women Voters – Susie Schreiber

During September, the League of Women Voters – Lake Michigan Region held a meeting conference that focusing on issues impacting Lake Michigan. There were approximately 150 attendees. The Waukegan CAG presented on its outreach to the community. Prior to the League's conference, a field trip to visit the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern was led by Rosemary Heilemann from the League of Women Voters – Lake Michigan Region and Jamie O'Mera from the Waukegan Port District for 16-attendees from several area states. They were impressed by the restoration work conducted at the harbor by the USEPA, and were especially impressed by the fish consumption advisory signs.

Detroit Public TV – Susie Schreiber

The Detroit Public Television website has some very good information about the Great Lakes including short videos and written material. The URL is GreatLakesNow.org

Monarch Butterflies – Susie Schreiber

The College of Lake County and Wild Ones held a monarch butterfly event at the College of Lake County. Wild Ones has a portion of its website dedicated to the Monarch butterfly - wildones.org/learn/wild-for-monarchs/ which is a very good reference tool for learning about Monarchs.

OMC Superfund Site – Kevin Adler, USEPA

There have been some concerns about the flow of water off the former OMC Plant 2 site onto Sea Horse Drive, which causes flooding of the roadway. Kevin said that the majority of water does not drain off the site; it collects in low spots on site, with some water draining to the North Ditch. No water drains to the South Ditch, but if it did it would be clean flow. The water of concern collecting at the curve at the northwest corner of Seahorse Dr. should not be coming off the OMC site. It maybe that the water-which used to flow across the OMC Plant 2 site from the west now flows around the site and collects at the curve on Seahorse Dr.

Report on Macro-invertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity Waukegan Dunal Area – Larissa Herrera, GZA Geo Environmental, Inc. (formerly Huff & Huff)

The follow-up study has found that there are some poor water quality intolerant organisms, i.e. those with gills present in the samples, indicate the three sites tested in the Glen Flora Ravine of

Bowen Park, including two riffles and one slow moving reach, are of fair. The Waukegan Dunal area sites in the dune and swale system east of the former OMC Plant 2 site (Op Unit 4) and Coke plant (Op Unit 2) are not of as high quality - with the exception of the new southernmost site which surprisingly scored quite well even though the measure used in the analysis is primary meant to be used in streams and not in swales.

Lake Michigan Trail – Joe Siedelmann, Waukegan Port District

A canoe/kayak launching system designed to assist individuals with disabilities will be installed at the lakefront. The Waukegan Harbor CAG, along with Professor Carl Lewis of the University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign School of Architecture assisted with preliminary ADA overview of the facility's design.

There currently aren't any plans to establish a canoe/kayak rental service at the lakefront, but that may happen in the future.

Waukegan Dunal Area – Swimming Beach – Susie Schreiber

Work is moving forward on completing the GRLI grant. The City of Waukegan decided not to use the offered remaining GRLI funds to prepare complete in depth planning documents to install an extensive all inclusive ecological, recreational, educational, ADA and hydrological boardwalk along the lakefront. Instead, the funds will be used by the Waukegan Park District for continued work at the frog pond in Bowen Park and for installing ADA accessible equipment/ramps at the Waukegan Port District's new canoe and kayak launch ramp.

The City had received a grant from IDNR Coastal Zone for infrastructure planning to upgrade/improve Seahorse Dr. They decided to include more limited boardwalk planning within this grant, instead of going after additional funding for a more comprehensive boardwalk described above.

GRLI Grant – Susie Schreiber

The Waukegan Harbor CAG-s met with the USEPA to clarify and obtain concise instructions on how to summarize and present the data collected during the our GLRI projects, as well as how to report on communication and outreach efforts.

Oaktober – Susie Schreiber

Susie encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to celebrate "Oaktober", the newly introduced effort of Lake County groups and Chicago Wilderness to focus efforts on saving remnants of the historically and ecologically significant Oak forests of our region.

Old Business

Salmon Unlimited Fishing Derby – September 12th, 2015. The yearly event was a wonderful success and well attended.

New Business

University of Wisconsin - School of Freshwater Sciences – has developed an online water related study curriculum. The program has a national reputation for excellence
<http://uwm.edu/freshwater/academics/>

9th Annual State of Lake Michigan meeting – October 28-30, 2015 Traverse City, Michigan. Seven people from Waukegan will be attending the meeting including representatives from the Waukegan Harbor CAG, Lake Forest Openlands, the League of Women Voters – Lake Michigan Region, Cool Summer Learning Experience and the Waukegan Port District.

Toledo Great Lakes Water Conference - November 6th, 2015 “Algae, Pipelines and More” organized by the University of Toledo College of Law

Announcements

The Edgewater Resources will be holding its last Waukegan Waterfront Active Implementation Plan public meeting on November 3, 2015.

Lake County Storm Water Management Commission – next storm water webcast is November 18th, 12:00 to 1:30 PM.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by and the meeting was adjourned by voice vote.

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 ILL House & Senate.

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

Great Lakes Commission.
Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy – 2002 Annual Progress Report

<http://www.lkmichiganforum.org/>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakemich>
<http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/index.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/lakemich>

The Lake Michigan Forum
Lake Michigan Lake Wide Management Plan (LaMP 2000)
Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council
Lake Michigan Sensitive Areas

<http://www.cciw.solec>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec>
<http://www.gvsu.edu/wri>
<http://www.epa.gov/OST/GLI/qlimixga.html>

State of the Great Lakes – SOLEC 2002 full report.
Annis Water Resources Institute
A document on Bioaccumulative Chemicals of Concern (BCCs).

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

Great Lakes Water Levels
Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study
Lake Michigan Mass Balance
Zebra Mussels in Southwestern Lake Michigan

<http://www.sph.umich.edu/ehs/umaql/mass.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lmmb>
<http://biology.usgs.gov/S+i/noframe/x186.html>

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
EJ & E Railway
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*

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 Depart. of Natural Resources
Illinois Environ. 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. Environ. Protection Agency
U. S. Fish and Wildlife
University of Illinois- Marine Extension
Waukegan Public Library
Concerned Citizens*