



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297

Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

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

Celeste Acosta	CAG Eco Ambassador
Brian A	CAG Eco Ambassador
Judith Boggess	Concerned Citizen
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Amanda Bozorgi	CAG Eco Ambassador
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Phil Connelly	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Roy Czajkowski	Concerned Citizen
Adrian Diaz Jr	CAG Eco Ambassador
Lisa Draper	Concerned Citizen
Natalie Dutack	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Chris Geiselhart	Lake County Audobon
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Emily Kowey	Concerned Citizen
Bill Lebensorger	GLRI Grant Administrator
Heriberto Leon	USEPA
Alex Morgan	Sierra Club
Jamie O'Meara	Waukegan Port District
Rich Romanek	National Gypsum
Ania Ruszaj	IDNR
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Fred Veenbaas	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station

GUESTS:

Rosemary Heilemann
Charlie Hoffman

League of Women Voters – Lake County & Lake Michigan Region
Lake Forest Open Lands & Concerned Citizen

AGENDA

No Additions.

MINUTES

May Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved with one correction to the Intern College Description section.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The USEPA's Waukegan Harbor Dredging Team received a USEPA **Bronze Medal Award** for their work on the PCB cleanup in the Harbor. Thanks to Project Manager Tim Drexler and all the team involved for working together to complete this project!

UPDATES

USEPA

North Shore Gas sites (Former Manufactured Gas Plants)

South Plant: A draft Record of Decision is undergoing internal review. It is anticipated that the Record of Decision (ROD) for Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (DNAPL) contamination will be signed before the end of August. The ROD will include USEPA's responses to questions received during the comment period (May 6 to June 5).

North Plant: A draft Remedial Investigation (RI) 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 completed.

Yeoman Creek Landfill

USEPA and the Yeomen Creek Remediation Group (YCRG) are reviewing applicable regulations regarding methane in order to draft proposed response actions at the Terrace Nursing Home.

A formal request was sent to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for technical assistance in evaluating the methane issue at the Terrace Nursing Home from the public health perspective. ATSDR's role will help with USEPA's forthcoming 5-Year Review process at the site.

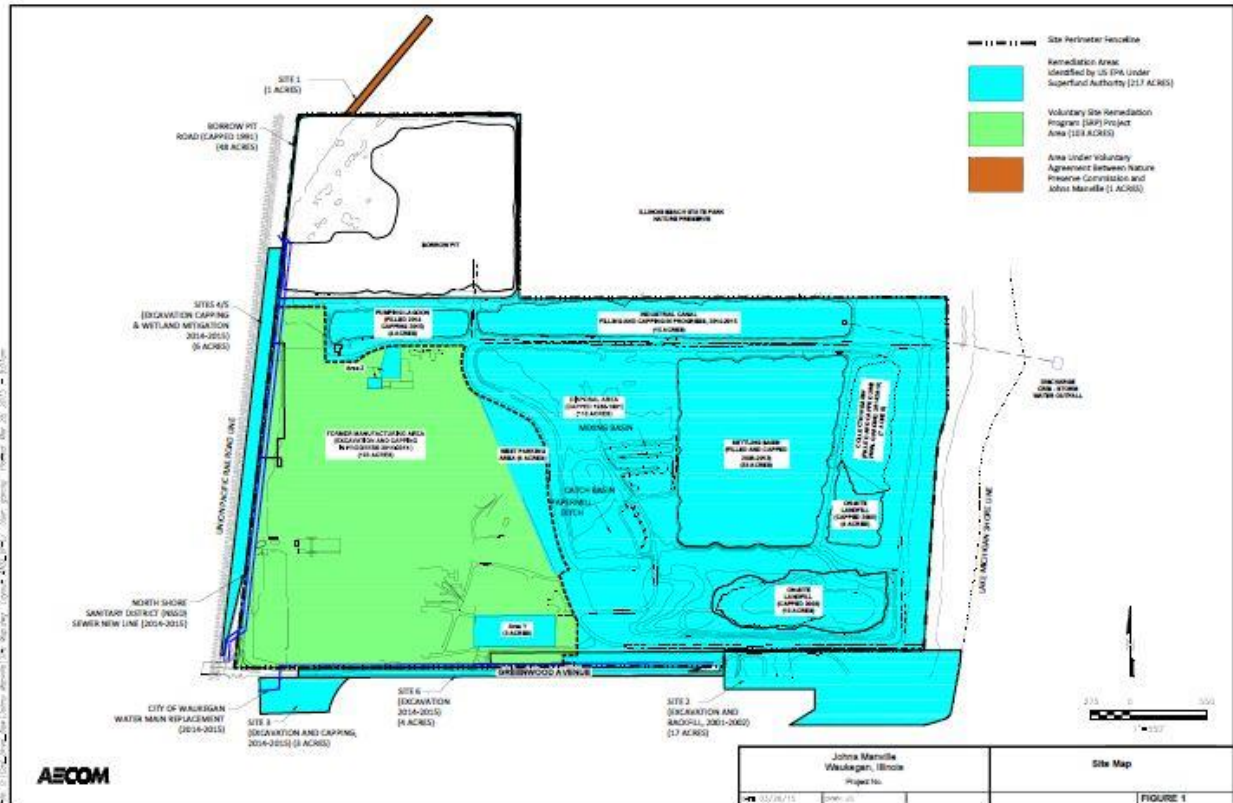


Johns Manville Corp. site

A 36-inch pipe crossing was installed under Greenwood Avenue in preparation for dewatering activities.

USEPA is reviewing a revised Removal Action Work Plan to include the complete removal of asbestos containing materials (ACM) from Sites 4/5 instead of capping the waste in place.

USEPA is working to develop and propose to the public a remedy for Site 1, a.k.a. Nature Preserve Road. Site 1 is an extension of the northern perimeter road at the Johns Manville site. It extends through a gate on the north side of the Borrow Pit and about 800 feet into the adjacent nature preserve covering about an acre. The ACM appears to periodically emerge at the surface through frost heave and/or erosion. The nature preserve does controlled burns before they pick up the visible ACM at the surface. In April there was also an unplanned fire, apparently caused by trespassers.



Outboard Marine Corporation site

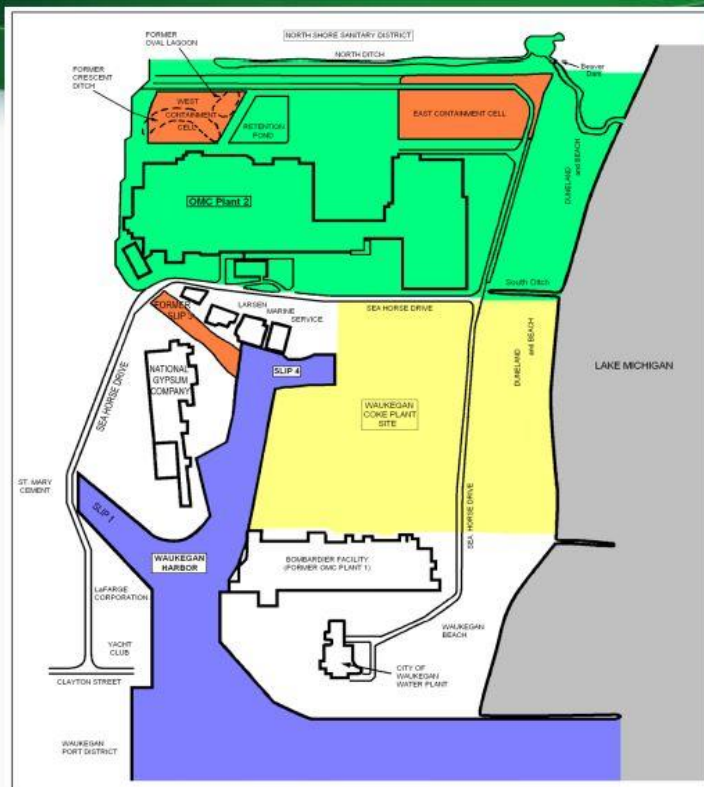
USEPA is preparing to start work next week on repairing a storm water drain on the western side of the property. Also next week, work in the Old Die Cast area will consist of finishing the cap and seeding it for the vegetative cover. An asphalt cover will be placed over the utility corridor in that area. Toward the first week in August, excavation of the concrete pad and soil underneath the former location of the Triax building will begin. Contamination will be removed and disposed of. It will be replaced with clean fill. Clean fill will also be brought into low-lying areas located mostly along the East side of the property, but will also be spread all over the site. All construction is expected to be completed by mid-September.

It was noted that the Waukegan Harbor CAG is helping with the process and working on final site maps. It was also observed that Crown Vetch is started to take hold along Sea Horse Dr. down by the harbor, and that this should be addressed in the near future.

Questions:

When you talk about utility corridor, what area are you referring to?
 The southwest side of the OMC Plant 2 (Op Unit 4) site.

OMC Site Operable Units



- OU 4 (Plant 2)
- OU 3 (Cells)
- OU 2 (WCP)
- OU 1 (Harbor)

IEPA

Nothing to report.

IDNR

Fish, Benthic, and Phytoplankton sampling are still ongoing. We are scheduled to finish by the end of summer. This will be followed by analysis and draft reports next year.

Waukegan Port District

The City of Waukegan Lake Front Committee met Monday and discussed planning issues for the Waukegan Lakeshore.

City of Waukegan

Nothing to Report.

CAG BUSINESS

WG JACKSON research ship

This year's WG Jackson research ship visit to Waukegan Harbor was fully booked and went very well every day. There were numerous enthusiastic responses from participants of all ages. Macro-invertebrate samples were taken at stations-around the harbor and at stations about a mile out in Lake Michigan with

good results. They found a healthier grouping of diatoms this year. The results will be sent to the USGS researchers doing the current benthic studies in Waukegan Harbor for the IDNR as a courtesy. This was very exciting news!

Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended AOC USEPA Document Repository in Waukegan Public Library

The USEPA required that the local library handle all documentation (Document Repository) for the remediation and cleanup of the US Great Lakes AOC's. Illinois EPA and the USEPA set up the repository in the early early 1990's. The Waukegan Harbor CAG helped by properly cataloging it through two separate grants over the past ten years.

The Waukegan Harbor CAG recently received a letter stating that the Waukegan Public Library would be converting to electronic documentation, per "our request". The CAG did not make the request and this issue is of some concern. Not all files are available or were converted electronically. Having this documentation is important – these are historical documents for public record and contain an immense volume of information on the history of the City of Waukegan east of Sheridan Rd. down to the lakefront. It was noted that technology is changing and that hard copies are critical.

A recommendation was made that we have an archivist come in and digitize it all the materials.

Questions

Is there any agreement between the federal government, USEPA, and the library?

The requirement is that when there is a superfund site, USEPA asks a library to host documents so the community can have access to all the project information. The USEPA regional record center is the formal record center.

Note – The problem is, that outside of the USEPA record center, if information is NOT preserved electronically the information will disappear.

2015 Eco Ambassadors Presentations

- Amanda: Swallow Monitoring at the Port-District - Every Monday we go out in boats to conduct swallow nest monitoring at the Waukegan Port District. We mapped all the docks, record weather and temperature and collected nest data. We look at single nests and "condos" (multi-family nests), and note if there are babies or if the nests are vacant. Boaters like swallows as they eat mosquitoes. Having habitat for nests important. While swallows are considered a species of "least concern" they are good indicators of the health of a site.

Questions

Are there any new nests?

There are, but they are hard to especially under the newer docks which float on the water.

What are the nest counts?

We can let you know when our data is finalized.

- Brian: Another project we work on is researching invasive species. Invasive species can crowd out native species, which leads to native species becoming endangered. There are endangered species in the Waukegan Dunal Area and at Bowen Park. When we gather data we are keeping track of natives through the Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern monitoring program and

invasives. Sweet clover, purple loosestrife, phragmites are common invasive threats. We monitor and map the location of the endangered species with GPS. That data goes into our projects, along with data from last year. Right now there is a big issue with phragmites on the northern parts of the dunes. We suggest that monitoring continues to keep track of those populations. More cooperation between the different property owners is also important – the untreated invasives on those properties could undo the invasive management of all the GLRI grant work. We should treat and eradicate the invasive species that are there, and make sure no new invasive species are brought in. Community outreach and education should also be incorporated into future work.

Questions

You have a great grasp of what is going on - what is your opinion on how the site is progressing?
The natives are rebounding in amazing numbers where the site was managed. It is very exciting.

- Celeste: Hydrology - Working with Joe Hmieleski, we looked at the sand dunes and measured water table data. We could not get to the clay layer, due to high rains this year. PCBs are low, but there is still a lot of garbage on the beach, plastics in particular, which are not good for lake health. We also went into Bowen Park and conducted a 100 foot hydrology survey. The results showed that Bowen is in good condition – it has good canopy and species diversity. Part of the study included soil testing, which showed a lot of low permeability soil. Combined with impermeable grey infrastructure, there are runoff and erosion issues in Bowen Park.
- Adrian: Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern - It was very exciting learning about all these rare plants of concern. Growing up in Waukegan, I did not know we had them. These plants in the Waukegan Dunes act as a buffer to the lake and water, and create diverse habitats. People should care about these habitats – it is our responsibility to take care of these communities for the future. Native species are also a good economic opportunity – ecotourism could be huge part of Waukegan and bring people down to the beach. These sites and plants are positive for the City of Waukegan. All the populations have increased with the work done on site. We need to let people know - it is good for education and exciting for citizens.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program – IEPA – Bureau of Water Collin Stedman

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) are developed for impaired waters to determine the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards and support its designated uses. Designated uses include aquatic life, indigenous aquatic life, public and food processing water supply, primary contact (e.g., swimming, water skiing), secondary contact (e.g., boating, fishing), fish consumption, and aesthetic quality. A TMDL is calculated for a single pollutant such as phosphorus or a specific metal and the impact from all contributing sources is identified.

An integrated water quality report has been created with our current statistics and assessments for nearshore water quality in Lake Michigan. There are several monitoring programs to collect different types of data. Section 305 B of the Clean Water Act covers TMDL requirements. We are mandated to prepare and submit a report every 2 years. Water quality standards are set by Illinois Pollution Control Board.

TMDLs are done in stages to allow for public involvement and input. TMDL development in Illinois begins with data compilation—water quality, point source discharge, precipitation, soils, geology, topography, and land use— within the specific watershed. The data is then analyzed to characterize and understand the impaired waterbodies and contributing sources. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) then

assesses the tools necessary to develop the TMDL. In most cases, computer models are used to calculate pollutant loads and link those loads to the water body condition. In the case of the mercury and polychlorinated biphenyl TMDLs, models will be used to link pollutant loads to fish tissue concentrations. A scoping report has been completed for the project watershed, and this report summarizes the available data, TMDL targets, and the recommended modeling approach.

There were 4 harbors studied, which includes Waukegan Harbor. The other three harbors are Northpoint, Diversey and Calumet. We look at several factors:

- Waste load allocations are point sources, which are regulated by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
- Load allocation = non-point source pollution.
- Margin of safety.
- Reserve capacity, which is for future development

Overview of TMDL Scoping

Fish tissue is the primary test for violation of water quality standards. For PCBs, 59 fish in total were sampled at Waukegan Harbor. There were 10 samples taken for mercury testing. The near shore area is defined as 5 kilometers from the shoreline and up to a depth of 30 feet.

RED values on the charts shown are those that exceed the fish consumption target of 0.06 mg/kg PCBs. The TMDL revolves around the concept of trying to set a target for reductions. We have a lot of different types of fish we sample. We are looking at what the value is now, and will decide what the safe value should be. Carp, lake trout, and bullhead are most contaminated with PCBs.

Questions

Carp often reflect historic conditions of the site and hold onto contaminants for a long period of time. Should you look at other species?

Because carp may be carrying contamination from a past period, it may be more effective to look at rock bass and lake trout as candidate species.

Waukegan Harbor CAG Picnic

This year the annual Waukegan Harbor CAG picnic will be held on August 20th on the patio/veranda of the Waukegan Port District administrative building by the Recreational Harbor. Everyone is invited! We have good things to celebrate – including the harbor clean up and grant achievements! Please join us.

Old Business

Lake Michigan Water Trail - not discussed due to time meeting time constraints.

New Business

Lake Michigan Day - not discussed due to time meeting time constraints.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting ended at 8:09 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 USEPA 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 *USEPA in Illinois* section.

Choose *Waukegan Harbor* for AOC information.