



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297

Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the September 17, 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 September 17, 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 September 17, 2015 CAG Meeting:

Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Natalie Dutack	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Charlie Hoffmann	Lake Forest Open Lands & Concerned Citizen
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Heriberto Leon	USEPA
Jamie O'Meara	Waukegan Port District
Rich Romanek	National Gypsum
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Wayne Schimpff	Concerned Citizen
Fred Veenbaas	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station

GUESTS:

Kathryn Clay	League of Women Voters – Lake County & Lake Michigan Region
Julio Guzman	Concerned Citizen
Rosemary Heilemann	League of Women Voters – Lake County & Lake Michigan Region
Tim O'Leary	Concerned Citizen
Viola Mosca	Hey & Assoc.
Tom Polzin	Hey & Assoc.
Mary Fran Traha	Clean Power Lake County & Christ Episcopal Church

AGENDA

Addition – Leave No Child Inside - Rebranding and Introductions.

MINUTES

The July 2015 minutes are not yet completed.

UPDATES

USEPA

North Shore Gas sites - (Former Manufactured Gas Plants)

South Plant: Negotiations are ongoing for the design of the DNAPL remedy at the South Plant. The agreement for conducting the design work will be incorporated into an Administrative Order of Consent, to be signed by USEPA and North Shore Gas. The Administrative Order of Consent is expected to be signed later this month, or in October. Following issuance of the design Administrative Order of Consent, USEPA will begin another round of negotiations with the gas company for implementing the DNAPL remedy at the site. A Consent Decree (CD) will be the enforcement instrument to be used for this next round of negotiations. The State has indicated it wants to be a party to this settlement. A Consent Decree for implementing the DNAPL remedy is not expected to be issued until 2016. Groundwater sampling is scheduled from September 14th to the 16th of this year.

North Plant: A draft Remedial Investigation (RI) report is expected before the end of the year. A Remedial Investigation 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

No update report. Hopefully by the next meeting we will have something

Johns Manville Corp. site

Goals for the site continue to include the prevention of exposure to or release of asbestos containing materials (ACM) or asbestos fibers. Johns Manville has stripped vegetation and ACM debris from Operable Unit (OU) 04 on the western boundary of the site and placed it in separate on-site stockpiles. Johns Manville has installed dewatering points along western property line and is running the dewatering pumps continuously. The water is being discharged to the North Shore Water Reclamation District sewer line per a permit with the District. AT&T and North Shore Gas contractors relocated and de-energized utility lines to support Johns Manville's excavation activities in the southwest site area. Johns Manville placed some ACM in the Industrial Canal along the northern property boundary. Clean Sand from Midwest Generation/NRG was also placed on the Former Manufacturing Area (OU 05). The sand was characterized and accepted by Illinois EPA for placement on OU 05 under their voluntary program. This work is expected to continue until winter weather precludes it.

Outboard Marine Corporation site

USEPA work continues at the OMC Site). Currently, we are placing clean soil fill over areas with residual contamination at the Plant 2 (Op Unit 4) Site. We are also excavating the concrete base of the Triax Building and underlying contaminated soil for offsite disposal. We are treating soil near the Triax Building that is contaminated with trichloroethene (TCE) with an oxidizer and capping contaminated utility areas with asphalt. We have cleaned out the storm water pipe on the west side of the property and hope to

begin work on a liner for that pipe in the next two weeks. We are hoping for substantial completion of construction by September 30, 2015. In addition, new USEPA websites will be up soon. Those new URLs will be provided shortly.

Questions:

Are the drainage issues on brownfield sites?

No, just on the OMC Superfund site.

IEPA

Nothing to report.

IDNR

Not present.

City of Waukegan

Nothing to Report.

CAG BUSINESSS

RAMSAR Announcement

The Chiwaukee Prairie Illinois Lake Plain partners were successful in their effort to have the area designated as an International Wetland of Significance. As one of the partners, Waukegan Park District's Bowen Park is included in this prestigious designation, as is Illinois Beach State Park. The City of Waukegan and North Shore Water Reclamation District chose not to partner and have their lakefront property included at this time. There will be a celebration at North Point Marina, in Winthrop Harbor, Friday, September, 25th from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

It was noted that a significant part of the importance of the designations is the dunal swale ecosystem, which is the last contiguous dunal swale system left on the Great Lakes.

2015 Eco Ambassadors Posters

Two of our 2015 Eco Ambassadors had posters accepted for the 2015 State of Lake Michigan Conference. The students worked with Little Fort Media in Waukegan to get their concepts properly ready for the presentation. They will be creating electronic versions for use by our Waukegan Harbor CAG partners who might like them, as well. Their Swallow Monitoring Report is also being finished and will be submitted to USGS.

OAKTober

Governor Bruce Rauner declared the month of October "Oak Awareness Month" in Illinois. As we have discussed in the past, oaks are a keystone species in the woodland and savanna ecosystems of Illinois. To bring awareness to the importance of oaks, and the need to restore and expand their ecosystems, there will be events throughout this month. Keep your eye out for events in your area and visit the Chicago Wilderness website for more information.

New Lake Michigan Invasive Species Notice

A new fresh water aquatic invasive has been found in St. Mary's River on the Michigan /Ontario border. The species is an algae called "Rock Snot" –which thrives in cold, clean water and can grow in thick mats, like wet wool. Its presence is a great concern as it crowds out important native species

Lake Michigan Water Trail

The goal of the Lake Michigan Water Trail is to connect the four states that surround Lake Michigan with a multimodal (hiking, biking, and canoe/kayak) trail system. The plan is to have stop off points every 5 miles along the trail. A kayak launch/stop off point in the Waukegan Harbor by the Public Launch Ramp would be ideal.

Using GPS units we rent from The Geographic Society of Chicago, the potential location was mapped and a map was made for their presentation to other partners. This is going to be very positive for the public and locally will increase access to the Illinois shoreline.

USEPA Community Involvement Plan for Waukegan Sites booklet

Tom Chefalo, Lake County Planning Department, and Heriberto Leon, USEPA, have met and will be working out mapping issues needing correction in the document.

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement – Annex 2

The new update, related to defunding, has redesigned what public stakeholder involvement will be like going forward. Instead of having multi-group involvement, we will have 1-2 meetings a year, with a public comment period for each. The Delta Institute and Lake Michigan stakeholders put together a strong, well documented letter of response saying stakeholders both want to be involved and should be involved, however USEPA said they would not be changing their new model. Stakeholders will have to figure something out.

In a related update, the State of Lake Michigan Conference has also been dropped for funding, however the State of Michigan thought that the meetings were so important they are hosting it themselves this year.

Waukegan Dunal Area, Swimming Beach and Boardwalk

One issue we have been addressing in the GLRI grant is how to increase access to the beach while protecting the habitat. With permission of the City of Waukegan at the July Lakefront Committee meeting, we have been looking at some boardwalk options with Hey and Associates.

Hey and Associates

The site is very interesting. In this area you just don't often get to see dunal formation occurring. Looking at the site today you wouldn't know the site is only 30 years old. People love the beach, but the problem is getting them out there without damaging the biologically rich Waukegan Dunal Area site. Designs have to take into consideration the importance of the habitat and protecting it while also allowing for more public access. The USACE reinforces that we want to maintain vegetation onsite. With plant loss, wind erosion becomes an issue, something a boardwalk would help mitigate.

Current options:

- Footpaths – provide access, but allow wandering into highly sensitive ecological areas.
- Wooden boardwalk – this keeps people focused, gets them to the beach quickly, and protects habitat/species.

The tentative design would be ADA accessible and wide enough for the City of Waukegan, the property owner, to access beach in case of emergency. We recommend that we look at other areas that have boardwalks and see what has been successful. We will be in discussion with Edgewater Resources at one of their upcoming public input meetings. Edgewater is designing the Lakefront Active Implementation Plan for the City. If you are interested in voicing your opinion on the beach and beach access, please come to their next meeting.

GLRI Grant

The 2010 GLRI Grant is scheduled to terminating on September 30, 2015 with a potential six (6) month extension. This would allow us look at opportunities to improve beach access. The GLRI funds would be available through March 30th, 2016. We are working to get reports in as soon as possible. We are still working on the educational signage for Bowen and the Waukegan Port District portion of the lake shore.

Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan

Lake County SMC held public outreach meetings in August to get input for their update to the Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. There is an upcoming stakeholder meeting on September 30th for County Staff.

Leave No Child Inside Rebranding and Introductions

We welcome Julio Guzman, who is now working for **Lake County Nature Network** formerly known as the Leave No Child Inside. He will serve as a liaison between the Lake County Nature Network partners and the public to create more outdoor awareness and opportunities within the greater Lake County multicultural community.

Old Business

Salmon Unlimited Fishing Derby

There was bad weather this year, but there were a very large number of happy participants. We have not received word on the results.

Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern

We will be writing a letter to Waukegan Library requesting no documents be removed from the USEPA Document Repository library related to the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern, Superfund sites and the greater Waukegan and North Chicago lake shore history in general. We will be sending it to administration of library and the Library Board.

Questions

Is the Library Board appointed by the mayor?

Yes

Should we copy the mayor?

No, and these issues have been handled in the past professionally by the USEPA and the Waukegan Harbor CAG with the library. We should continue in the same manner.

New Business

Great Lakes Commission

This year's meeting will be held at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, September 28-29, 2015.

League of Women Voters

League of Women Voters - Lake Michigan Region have their annual meeting on September 25-26th, in Glenview, IL this year. The theme is “engaging people” and guest speakers include Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis, Climate Ecologist at the Field Museum and Co-Chair of the Chicago Wilderness Climate Action Committee, and Molly Flanagan, Policy Director at The Alliance for the Great Lakes.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Claudia Freeman and seconded by Larry Brewer. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 7:43 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 USEPA 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 *EPA in Illinois* section.

Choose *Waukegan Harbor* for AOC information.