



## **Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group**

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**Minutes of the January 21<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 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 January, 2016, 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 January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 CAG Meeting:**

<b>Judy Beck</b>	Concerned Citizen & retired USEPA
<b>Penny Bouchard</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Larry Brewer</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Tom Chefalo</b>	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
<b>Tim Drexler</b>	USEPA
<b>Paul Geiselhart</b>	Lake County Audubon
<b>Paul Kukuris</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Bill Lebensorger</b>	GLRI Grant Administrator
<b>Heriberto León</b>	USEPA
<b>Paul Kakuris</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Rich Romanek</b>	National Gypsum
<b>Ania Ruzsaj</b>	IDNR
<b>Susie Schreiber</b>	Illinois Audubon & Waukegan Harbor CAG
<b>Don Wilson</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Fred Veenbaas</b>	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station

### **GUESTS:**

<b>Julie Guzman</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Charlie Hoffmann</b>	Lake Forest Open Lands & Concerned Citizen
<b>Rosemary Heilemann</b>	League of Women Voters – Lake County
<b>Angela Smith</b>	Foss Park District

### **AGENDA**

There were no additions made to the agenda.

## **MINUTES**

A motion to accept the minutes were made as follows:

June 2015 – Don Wilson moved to accept, and the motion was seconded by Fred Veenbaas

July 2015 – Paul Geiselhart moved to accept, and the motion was seconded by Don Wilson

September 2015 – Fred Veenbaas moved to accept, and the motion was seconded by Paul Geiselhart

October 2015 – Paul Geiselhart moved to accept, and the motion was seconded by Fred Veenbaas

November 2015 – Penny Bouchard moved to accept, and the motion was seconded by Fred Veenbaas/ Ania Ruszaj

## **UPDATES**

**USEPA** – Heriberto León

### **Yeoman Creek Landfill**

The USEPA-approved biweekly landfill gas monitoring continues routinely with no significant changes.

In December 2015, the Yeoman Creek Remediation Group (YCRG) submitted to USEPA their revision of the Phase II Remediation Plan for addressing the methane exceedances at the Terrace Nursing Home parking lot. This Phase II Additional Protective Measures Final Work Plan was submitted to supersede an earlier version from 2013. USEPA is currently reviewing this document and plans to submit comments back to the Remediation Group in a couple of weeks.

USEPA is still awaiting an YCRG response to USEPA's comments on the third-party evaluation report of sediment / soil PCB data for the creek itself.

### **Johns Manville**

Goals for the site include preventing exposure to, or release of, asbestos containing materials (ACM) or asbestos fibers. With the exception of bringing in cover materials, most construction activities are on hold for the winter. The work is expected to resume around April 2016 when weather permits.

USEPA is waiting to hear back from the State of Illinois IDNR about the next steps for a remedy at OU 06 also known as Site 1 or the Nature Preserve Road, after meeting at the site on September 30, 2015. 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. The State of Illinois now expects to provide a response by the end of February.

### **North Shore Gas South Plant:**

USEPA is reviewing the draft work plan for the design of the interim remedy at the South Plant, addressing the dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) contamination.

### **Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC) – Tim Drexler**

In December there was a setback in completing work on the site.

While constructing a new containment cell on the west side of the site, a storm water pipe, the existence of which was previously unknown, was disturbed. The pipe fed into the North Ditch. Although the North Ditch was remediated several years ago, it was discovered that there were new deposits of PCBs (70-90 ppm) in the ditch. It was decided that there was a need to look at the whole storm water system that feeds into the North Ditch.

A second storm water pipe was discovered, and it was found that it had been used by beaver. The beaver had fully blocked the pipe. Sediments in the blockage were found to contain PCBs (800 ppm). Because of the blockage, storm water and sediments also backed up onto the City of Waukegan owned waste yard to the west of the OMC site.

Because of the previous remediation work done in the North Ditch, it was decided that the best method of removing the contaminated sediments was to manually remove them by hydraulic suction. In addition, about 150 feet of a 3 foot diameter contaminated pipe will be removed and landfilled in an appropriate landfill facility.

### **IEPA**

No updates were presented at this meeting.

### **IDNR – Ania Ruszaj**

Analysis of last summer's fish samples will be available in March, and the benthos and plankton sample test results will be available in this summer.

The Illinois State Geological Survey, a division of the Illinois Natural History Survey, is hiring a coastal geologist who should be helpful in analyzing coastal erosion. The Illinois Coastal Zone Program is helping to partially fund this position, and is also filling two more positions. One person will primarily work on the LaMP (Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Program) and the other will staff the 309 grants program.

### **City of Waukegan**

No updates were presented at this meeting.

## **CAG BUSINESS**

### **IEPA and TMDL Presentation** – Susie Schreiber

A public meeting discussing a draft Total Maximum Daily Load Report was held at the Waukegan Public Library on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

The purpose of this meeting was to provide an opportunity for the public to receive updated information and comment on the draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) modeling completed by LimnoTech concerning impairments to 51 Illinois Lake Michigan beach or shoreline segments, four harbors and one Lake Michigan nearshore open water segment within the watershed. The impairment studies for these segments of the watershed are mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The Draft TMDL Report for the Illinois nearshore Lake Michigan Mercury and PCB modeling will be available on-line at [www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices](http://www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices). A hard copy of the draft report will be available for viewing at the Waukegan Public Library during business hours. Questions about the TMDL should be directed to the project manager, Collin Stedman by phone at 217-782-3362 or email [Collin.Stedman@illinois.gov](mailto:Collin.Stedman@illinois.gov). Public comments are being accepted until midnight February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The data included in the report was presented to the CAG at its July 2015 meeting by LimnoTech, the consulting firm contracted to gather samples and complete the report.

There are many questions concerning fish sampling and whether there was coordination between LimnoTech and the IDNR as part of the study. It is not known if LimnoTech had access to all of the IDNR fish sampling data collected in this region. Judy Beck, USEPA retired, also stated that LimnoTech was missing some datasets from the Great Lakes National Office.

There were many questions about mercury and its source. It is not clear where the mercury in the sediments may have originated or how the findings of the report will be addressed.

There was a question about how the sampling testing was conducted. Were the fish filleted, the dinner table approach, or were the fish ground up, the approach used to measure the overall presence of contaminants in the eco-system. Some attendees felt that the scope of the study was very limited.

It was also suggested that the IEPA could have contacted the Tom and Chris Custer who have been testing swallows nesting at Waukegan Harbor for PCBs for the past three years.

The CAG believes that it is important that there be coordination between local and state agencies when studies such as this are undertaken.

### **Waukegan Port District and Greater Waukegan Development Coalition Waukegan Harbor Master Plan** – Susie Schreiber

The Waukegan Port District is preparing to develop a master plan for their property in the harbor area. The Waukegan Port District is working with the Greater Waukegan Development Coalition (GWDC) to pursue the predevelopment activities. The planning is being funded through a

\$100,000 grant supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Coastal Management Zone Program. The Waukegan Harbor CAG has been invited to serve on the Master Plan Steering Committee. The “Master Plan will build upon a current effort undertaken by the City of Waukegan, while encouraging residential, commercial and public land uses capable of creating jobs and economic activity as envisioned by the “2003 Downtown and Lakefront Master Plan”.

### **Federal Firing Range and Foss Park District** – Susie Schreiber and Angela Smith

The Foss Park District Council has asked for a letter of support for a grant they are pursuing to fund the stabilization of the bluff and trails at Foss Park.

However, there is a concern about the Federal Firing Range located just north of the park. While live fire isn’t used at the facility anymore, and there is no danger to the public in that respect, there is a concern that activities conducted at the facility over the years may have contaminated lake sediments and/or the beach at the base of the bluff. It is important to understand the impact of the range on the surrounding environment, especially if improvements to the area will encourage more people to take advantage of Foss Park and its lakefront amenities.

In addition, the Foss Park District would like the facility relocated. When in use, it creates an intimidating atmosphere for people using Foss Park. The District recently completed their masterplan and hope to convince elected officials that the two adjacent land uses are incompatible. Early attempts to move the facility were met with resistance.

Foss Park District has invited Lake Forest Open Lands to tour the North Chicago lakefront.

### **Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan 1998 to 2016 and beyond** – Judy Beck USEPA, retired and the League of Woman Voters

Judy opened her presentation by stating that in order to sustain Lake Michigan one has to have a sustainable stewardship network with links to local, state and basin wide organizations and decision makers.

There have been many milestones in the recent history of the effort to clean up the industrial legacy of the Great Lakes basin and Lake Michigan. Included are:

- 1972 – The Clean Water Act was passed
- 1998 – The establishment of the Lake Manager Program, Judy was hired as the manager of Lake Michigan at the USEPA
- 1999 – The first State of Lake Michigan conference was held, and the WD Jackson toured Lake Michigan
- 2000 – The publication of the first Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP)
- 2004 – Passage of the Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA)
- 2010 – The GLLA was modified and made easier to work within, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) was begun.
- 2014 – Final environmental dredge of Waukegan Harbor completed and preparations for delisting the Harbor as an Area of Concern on the Great Lakes (AOC) began

Judy believes it is important to understand that the Waukegan Harbor CAG and similar organizations recognize they are part of the stewardship network and cannot declare the harbor (or

the lake) clean, shake hands and walk away. She said we can't relax and assume everything is finished.

She also feels that it is important that everyone know their Hydrological Unit Code (HUC). It is a sequence of numbers that identify a watershed, and that everyone gain watershed literacy. Knowing ones HUC helps one identify who to work with to address problems in one's watershed. She also felt it was unfortunate that Areas of Concern (AOCs) weren't established as watershed stewardship organizations.

To promote watershed literacy, the League of Woman Voters of Illinois pledges to have 100 watershed informational meetings in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the League.

Judy summarized her presentation by stating the Clean Water Act has provided approaches and funding scenarios to meet its goals. Regulations, management, funding and scientific information have evolved. Decades of experience and lessons learned can now be built upon and combined with new needs, tools and technology to avoid duplication and wasted energy of reinvention. An interdependent, science based framework is needed to sustain literate and engaged watershed stakeholders. The League of Women Voters is looking for partners to move forward.

### **Birds in My Neighborhood** – Susie Schreiber & Paul Geiselhart

National Audubon and their chapters have asked that the Lake County Audubon Chapter to establish the Bird's in My Neighborhood program in local schools. The Lake County Chapter, along with Openlands, will train three teachers who will teach birding to their students. The goal is to acquaint students and teachers with the common birds in their garden, neighborhood, and community. Each student is given a journal as an educational tool with prompts for writing about birds. It is hoped that birds can be the entrée to connect youth with a long-term passion for the environment.

### **Eco Ambassadors** – Susie Schreiber

For the past two years, four students have been funded through the CAG GLRI grant. Their work included extensive POC monitoring on our GLRI sites for the Chicago Botanic Garden, hydrological data gathering on the Waukegan Dunal Area and in the Glen Flora ravine, swallow nest data gathering under the Waukegan Port District recreational harbor docks and outreach educational work with Lake County Nature Network partners. They were also instrumental in conducting the analysis that lead to the installation and daily use of the Big Belly trash cans at the Waukegan lakefront, the Waukegan Port District facilities and in Bowen Park. The Waukegan Harbor CAG would like to continue the program, but have not secured funding for the program as yet. The program costs run about \$1,600 per Eco-Ambassador, in addition to covering the cost of a supervisor for the six to seven week program. Our many partners fully support the work and the opportunities provided to local college students through this program.

### **US and Binational Great Lakes Area of Concern Meeting** – Susie Schreiber

The meeting will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 in Dearborn Michigan. Susie will be attending along with one member of the Waukegan Harbor CAG.

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

The February Waukegan Harbor CAG meeting will highlight Lake Forest College professor Jeffrey Sundberg who will be speak on Birding Economics: Activity and Preferences of Resident and Nonresident Birders in Lake County Forest Preserves, and will include discussion on the Waukegan Dunal Area and Bowen Park birding economics.

## **Announcements**

The Lake County Forest Preserve District has nearly completed its Green Infrastructure Plan. It will be released sometime this spring.

## **Adjournment**

Penny Bouchard made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion to end the meeting was seconded. 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  
The Lake Michigan Forum  
Lake Michigan Lake Wide Management Plan (LaMP 2000)

<http://www.lkmichiganforum.org/>  
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakemich>

Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council  
Lake Michigan Sensitive Areas

<http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/index.html>

State of the Great Lakes – SOLEC 2002 full report.  
Annis Water Resources Institute

<http://www.epa.gov/lakemich>

<http://www.cciw.solec>

<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec>

<http://www.gvsu.edu/wri>

<http://www.epa.gov/OST/GLI/glimixqa.html>

A document on Bioaccumulative Chemicals of Concern (BCCs).

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

Great Lakes Water Levels

<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

## **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*