



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297

Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the March 17, 2016, 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 March 17, 2016, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:11 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 March 17, 2016 CAG Meeting:

Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Catherine Buchalski	IDNR- Coastal Zone and Natural History
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Natalie Dutack	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Laurie Grabarski	Larsen Marine
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Bill Lebensorger	GLRI Grant Administrator
Heriberto Leon	USEPA
Rich Romanek	National Gypsum
Ania Ruszaj	IDNR
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Chris Tanner	Tanner Environmental
Fred Veenbaas	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station
Barbara Waller	First Baptist Church, Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Rosemary Heilemann	League of Women Voters – Lake County & Lake Michigan Region
Charlie Hoffmann	Lake Forest Open Lands & Concerned Citizen
Susan Hoffmann	Lake Forest Open Lands
Brad Kaplan	Brad Schneider for Congress
Gregory Larsen	Concerned Citizen
Ben Strzelewicz	Concerned Citizen

Tom Chefalo has an addition to the agenda under New Business: ~~{Des Plaines River Watershed}~~.
Penny Bouchard also has an addition for the agenda under Announcements.

MINUTES

We nearly have minutes for February complete.

UPDATES

USEPA - Heriberto Leon

North Shore Gas (Former Manufactured Gas Plant)– South Plant

USEPA and North Shore Gas have begun negotiations for remedy implementation. A consent decree is being negotiated at this time. We expect to finalize an agreement by the summer or fall of this year. The quarterly groundwater sampling will be occurring this month.

Johns Manville Corp. site

Remedial construction activity is expected to start again in May 2016 as weather permits. Table 1 below provides the remedial activity projected for the rest of 2016.

Table 1
2016 Remedial Construction Schedule Johns Manville, Waukegan, IL

Notes:

1. Construction activities, 5:30 am to 6:30 pm Mon-Fri. In addition, 5:30 am to 5:00 pm Saturdays when necessary.
2. Sand transportation, 7 am to 5 pm Mon-Fri on JM property.

Construction Activity (Weather Permitting) ⁽¹⁾	2016			
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
Industrial Canal Final Cover seeding		■	■	
Utility Relocation and Decommissioning (AT&T, North Shore Gas)	■	■		■
Site 4/5 Wetlands Restoration		■	■	
Site 3 Soil Removal, Capping, and Site Restoration		■	■	
Site 6 Soil Removal Action, City of Waukegan Water Main, Site Restoration		■	■	
Former Manufacturing Area - Voluntary Site Remediation Program - Engineered Barrier	■	■	■	

Daily activities will commence sooner and last longer within the boundaries of the NRG property.

Trucks will be loaded at NRG Sand Stockpile, cross Greenwood Ave. and unload & spread on JM Former Mfg Area.

Outboard Marine Corporation site-

See report from Tim Drexler below.

Yeoman Creek Landfill

The USEPA approved biweekly landfill gas monitoring continues routinely with no significant changes. USEPA has completed the review of the Phase 2 Additional Protective Measures Final Work Plan. The Phase II Work Plan is currently being reviewed by Illinois EPA, and once we receive their comments, we plan to forward both USEPA's and IEPA's comments to the Yeoman Creek Remediation Group.

The Yeoman Creek Remediation Group submitted the following reports in February 2016, which are currently being reviewed by the USEPA

- *The Vapor Intrusion Report*, dated February 29, 2016
- *Progress Report for December 2015 through January 2016*, dated February 19, 2016
- *Annual Report 2015*, summarizing the remedial action operation and monitoring activities at the Yeoman Creek Landfill site during 2015.

Questions

Can we have the project manager come up and give us more detail on the North Shore Gas South Plant site?

Yes.

IEPA

Nothing to report.

IDNR - Ania Rusjaz

Fish, Benthic, and Phytoplankton Sampling

The fish sampling from Waukegan Harbor was completed last summer using the IEPA sampling protocol and the results have been compiled and sent on to the State of Illinois Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program. Once IDNR receives the final analysis, we will create a summary report and provide it to the Waukegan Harbor CAG.

Catherine Buchalski was introduced as a new hire in the Illinois Coastal Zone Program. Her position is partially funded by funds from the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Questions

Will someone from IDNR Fisheries come to the CAG meeting to explain the final fish sampling analysis results when they are ready?

Yes.

City of Waukegan

Not present

CAG BUSINESSS

Waukegan High School History Project

Last month we reported that several Waukegan High School students approached the Waukegan Harbor CAG and USEPA for information on the Yeoman Creek Landfill and OMC Superfund Site, for a Chicago Metro History Fair Project. We received an email a week ago saying that their project, *Poisoned Past, Bright Future* is going on to the Finals of the Chicago Metro history Fair! We have been invited to hear their presentation at UIC on April 5th.

IEPA-TMDL

The Waukegan Harbor CAG had several questions for the IEPA on the results of their Total Mass Daily Load (TMDL) modeling report. In particular, we questioned the levels of PCBs they noted in Waukegan Harbor. This contradicts the fact that - the harbor cleanup was completed last year by the USEPA Superfund

program. The IEPA results used modeling, not actual data which was definitely available to them prior to their study. IEPA Modeling was based on pre-dredging data and averages of other Illinois harbors, not current 2015 hard data on the conditions in Waukegan Harbor. In addition, IEPA did not use any of the USGS Swallow Egg Monitoring data (Custer & Custer). Some departments of IEPA itself are not necessarily in agreement with the TMDL modelling process and the final report.

An unofficial note – the newest swallow monitoring results show that PCBs have definitely gone down in Waukegan Harbor, but that data is not ready for publication yet. We are hoping to have it by July, 2016.

OMC AOC Cleanup Update -Tim Drexler

There has been some progress since Tim last spoke. USEPA identified a recontamination issue along the North Ditch. There is City of Waukegan culvert dammed by a beaver with high PCB contamination found on/near the west side of the OMC property-which needs to be cleaned out **before** USEPA can address the North Ditch. The contractor started working-the dam area today. The area is heavily ponded. In order to do work the ponded area needs to be drained and the beaver debris cut out of the culvert. Once cleaned out, the culvert will be video-taped to get images of the inside of the culvert. Next, a cured in-place liner will be placed in the contaminated culvert. After that, the rest of the project will be finished.

USEPA has received bids for the installation of a weir on the eastern side of site and are evaluating them now. Some contractors have given USEPA different approaches, so USEPA is reviewing those new options as well. Decisions will be made in the next few weeks and it is hoped the start will occur by the end of April.

The TCE solvent plumes are being treated in-situ with sodium permanganate which is breaking down the contaminants into non-toxic daughter products. Another round of sampling will be conducted in April to see if the project can move to monitored natural attenuation, or if more aggressive treatment is needed.

The Coke Plant area (Op Unit 2) had 3 feet of clean fill placed on it from last summer's Outer Harbor dredging. Work was finished too late last year to establish vegetative cover over the site. Re-vegetation will be completed this spring. Most all physical work should be done by May or June. Then the site will be turned over to the parties who will maintain the site: the City of Waukegan and IEPA. The City owns the site, and maintenance shared by City and IEPA.

Questions

The pipe that goes under railroad (Metra tracks) had other debris?

Yes

At Larsen Marine today we found a drainage problem, and we are concerned that this is due to removal of long standing debris by USEPA. Comments?

No work has been done yet to remove the debris. We don't know why this happened, but we haven't started yet so there is no explanation. The City wanted to clear blockages last fall, but USEPA found the contamination. Their contractors couldn't handle that level of work, so the debris was left there.

Does the City have the expertise to assess and manage this?

That is a fair question; we will keep it on the table.

The City tore down some beaver dams last fall, and now we have been getting flooding. We are worried about more contamination. Do you know anything about this?

We were unaware of this. Let me know where that work was done. We can talk about that as soon as I know more.

Are you convinced that you have identified all the contamination in the ditch, and when you remove it, will it all be gone?

It was not surprising when we found more. We believe that once we remove and clean it out the problem will be solved.

What type of pipe (by beaver dam/contamination)?

It is concrete on the ends, but we are not certain about the entire type due to the blockage. Once we get the video footage inside we will know more.

Comments

We need to address the complicated drainage and hydrology of the entire area. It is creating damage for businesses. We know from historical records and photos how inconsistent the hydrology and water flow knowledge of the area is, and have wanted a hydrology study of the nearshore area done. However this was decided against.

The main concern is that the parties who will be responsible for maintaining the area have no sound understanding of the drainage for the entire lakefront area. This is something we need to discuss. All storm water sewers were conduits for oil / PCB contamination and that had to be stopped; the City will have to address the infrastructure issue as part of remediation.

Lake County Nature Network (LCNN)

Susie Hoffmann

LCNN is a conservation group in Lake County, whose goal is to connect Lake County's Latino and African American communities to nature-based learning, science, recreation and stewardship activities. LCNN had a meeting with community partners last week (schools, faith based groups, etc.) to identify some resources. The meeting was very successful with over 51 people in attendance. We want to get the word out to the Waukegan and North Chicago communities. Julio Guzman is at the Waukegan Public Library every Wednesday from 3-6:00 pm, talking about the group and giving information to families. Often he brings live animals, which has been very popular. LCNN will try to have something similar in the North Chicago community.

Questions

Is there information available on a website?

LCNN does not have the resources yet for a website, but we have a Facebook page. We are working on it.

Waukegan Harbor CAG Policy and Procedure Manual and By-Laws

The Waukegan Harbor CAG Executive Committee met yesterday. As we have been working on audits over the past year, it was noted that we should update our By-Laws and Policy and Procedure Manual. We are now in the process of doing this. One of the reasons we wanted to wait was to finish the GLRI grant, see what the status of AOC and Extended AOC is, and then determine what ~~are~~ the needs of the community are going forward.

Nominating Committee

We would have had this in place in January but with all the Grant/audit work, it was delayed. It also seemed prudent to identify what direction you want this organization to go in so future leadership will be responsive to issues remaining and/or forthcoming in the Waukegan Harbor AOC and Extended AOC. (see below: **Waukegan Harbor CAG's role as an AOC going forward**)

US and Binational Great Lakes Area of Concern Meeting

The US and Binational Great Lakes Area of Concern Meeting was held on March 2-3 in Dearborn, MI. Susie Schreiber and Tom Chefalo were present. It was very well attended and one of the better AOC meetings we have attended. The focus was on what is next, after your AOCs have the majority of work completed. There were several presentations on how local areas are considering their AOC's futures.

US Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal Agencies are providing support to:

- Help AOCs develop program goals towards delisting
- Provide technical, scientific, and habitat restoration support for BUI review, assessment, and removal

GLRI funded services aiming to help provide scientific data and education to help continue and sustain Great Lakes restoration efforts were reviewed:

- NOAA's Great Lakes Synthesis, Observation, and Response System (SOAR) - coordinates and integrates Coastal Ecosystem observations that support GLRI work.
- Lake Level Viewer – A tool that helps users visualize lake level changes ranging from 6' above to 6' below historical average lake levels.
- Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) – Produces a nationally standardized database of land cover and land change information for coastal regions.
- NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) – An environmental education program for K-12 learning, funded through local grant awards.

GLNPO had a brochure with data supporting continued GLRI funding for 2017. Long term economic return investment since 2010, has been \$50 billion! This is the data we need to share with our congressmen.

The challenge for Waukegan is that there hasn't been much work done in an AOC of our type. We are not going to end up being some tourist destination per say, or some redevelopment like the Menominee River. We are in uncharted territory. Moving forward we need to find answers to the following questions: Who keeps an eye on the work that has been done? Who maintains it? Where does the funding come from?

Waukegan Harbor CAG's role as an AOC going forward

The Waukegan Harbor AOC is waiting to be moved into an Area of Recovery status, pending monitoring results. We need to know how you want us to move forward. Should we continue on after status change? Is our work done? What do you think?

The Waukegan Harbor CAG formed in August of 1990:

1. To ensure the expedient development and implementation of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern (AOC) that fulfills the terms of the Great lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Critical Programs Act.

2. To foster among the public a sense of responsibility for restoring and maintaining the ecological integrity of the Waukegan Harbor AOC;
3. To promote a lake shore environment for the public to use and enjoy in recognition that public access to the lake shore will significantly benefit both the economy and the citizens of Waukegan.

Comments

- The ongoing issues with drainage around Sea Horse Drive were noted again. There are different government agencies working down here but they aren't talking to each other. The CAG needs to be around to encourage that; it is a way for the community to have representation and that needs to be a permanent fixture for Waukegan.
- Some feel like the public would be bullied without CAG, and that the CAG is doing what lawyers would be doing.
- Networking – the CAG is critical in getting community involvement. We also need to keep monitoring and act a watchdog.
- The CAG is critical as a repository for reports/documentation/ history of Waukegan. Institutional memory is maintained.
- The CAG has had an important role in educating so many elected officials. This is critical.
- For all the above reasons, the CAG needs to be around, but we need to reach out and get new people involved. More work with LCNN and younger citizens' will help bring fresh perspective, keep us modern, and help get the message out.
- We should have a lakefront museum that holds all of this information, containing environmental and historical exhibits about the near shore area.

Overall everyone feels that the CAG is important for the Waukegan community and Lake County and should stay around!

Citizen Science

A monitoring program has been set up at Ganster Ravine and we would like to set up a similar program with the Bowen Neighbors at Glen Flora.

Revitalizing Our Ravines

Revitalizing our Ravines: Community Workshop 2016 - June 1, 12:30-7:30 p.m. at the Chicago Botanic Garden. This event is hosted by Alliance for the Great Lakes, the Chicago Botanic Garden, Openlands and The Field Museum. We have been invited to submit a poster on the Glen Flora Ravine restoration and private property owner uses.

Old Business

Research buoys off of Waukegan Shoreline

Could IDNR tell us status of the new and/or proposed research buoys?

Ania noted that a grant was submitted, and IDNR is waiting to see if we get some funding.

The CAG has been very interested in potential nearshore buoys to continue gathering data relevant to

sand management and to avian and fishery usage in the nearshore waters.

New Business

Des Plaines River Watershed Plan

Lake County SMC has started a Des Plaines River (DPR) Watershed Plan. The DPR has a large watershed – it is at least a 1/3 of Lake County. The plan goes from Cook County to Wisconsin. We would like to encourage people who live in the watershed to get involved.

Additional Questions

What is the unattractive road/path on the ComEd property just east of Bowen Park?

It is not a road; ComEd is doing work and has to mow a trail to have access to their power lines and equipment. It happens regularly. We have made them aware of the POCs and rare species in the area. Unfortunately, there has been little inclination from Com Ed to coordinate on this and some species have been damaged or destroyed.

Announcement

Penny Bouchard announced that a Distinguished Environmental Professional Award was given to Susie last night by the Industrial Wastes, Water and Sewage Group (IWWSG), a Chicago area environmental professional organization established in 1948 . She was recognized for outstanding career contributions and leadership and her role in the cleanup of the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern.

Also noted:

Susie was been nominated for a LakeCountyCares, I Care award. Each year, LakeCountyCares recognizes the best volunteers in Lake County through the I Care awards. LakeCountyCares will host the 10th annual I Care Awards event on Saturday, April 23rd at the newly remodeled Gorton Community Center in Lake Forest.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Claudia Freeman, and seconded by Paul Kakuris, The motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:12 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 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.