



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

P.O. Box 297

Waukegan, Illinois 60079

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the April 21, 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 April 21, 2016, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:05 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 April 21, 2016 CAG Meeting:

Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Catherine Buchalski	IDNR Coastal Zone Mgt.
Natalie Dutack	GLRI Quality Assurance Manager
Tat Ebihara	JM – AECOM
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Bill Lebensorger	GLRI Grant Administrator
Jamie O'Meara	Waukegan Port District
Matt Ohl	USEPA
Rich Romanek	National Gypsum
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon
Joe Seidelmann	Waukegan Port District
Angela Smith	Foss Park District
Fred Veenbaas	NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station
Barbara Waller	Concerned Citizen
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Rosemary Heilemann	League of Women Voters – Lake County & Lake Michigan Region
Laurie Morse	Illinois Paddling Council

AGENDA

Additions to the meeting: the Eco Ambassador Program update, Cool Learning Experience update, and Des Plaines River Watershed.

MINUTES

The February Meeting Minutes were sent out this week. A motion was made by Jaime O'Meara and seconded by Paul Geiselhart to accept the minutes. With all in favor, the motion carried.

UPDATES

USEPA

North Shore Gas (Former Manufactured Gas Plants) sites: Ross del Rosario

South Plant

USEPA completed the record of decision back in July 2015, and negotiated a Remedial Design in October 2015. About a week ago USEPA received a work plan from North Shore Gas and will gather more information about issues identified in the feasibility study. USEPA will provide comments to North Shore Gas in 30 days.

A proposed boat storage and sales facility is planned for construction within the foot print of the South Plant. There is an important cleanup issue of identifying the layout of a necessary horizontal well which maybe partially in the footprint of the building. It is possible that well need not be built beneath the facility. USEPA is working with the Waukegan Port District to review the design of the building to make sure what we are doing and what they are doing aren't in conflict and everyone can succeed.

Questions (USEPA)

Is there DNAPL under the foundation of the building?

Deepest point for the foundation is 4.5 feet, DNAPL is 25 feet down. The area where the proposed boat facility will go is not by thickest area of DNAPL. The thickest area is just off Pershing Road. We asked if they could move the building further north, but the City said no as there are plans for that area and they did not want to disrupt the view corridor.

Who owns the land under the boat shed?

The Waukegan Port District. The ownership is clear. That has been a big issue as the cleanup site has multiple owners and we need permission from all for access.

Is the cleanup being paid for by North Shore Gas?

Yes, USEPA is negotiating with North Shore Gas on implementing the remedy. This is an interim action – the remedy is not final. USEPA needs to find the contamination source first and then look at the overall remedy. There is going to be a lot of work left.

Questions (Waukegan Port District)

Will the building impair or reduce parking?

The building won't remove all parking – just a small portion. There will be new landscaping and parking as part of the larger redevelopment plan. This would just be the first of many improvements by the lake in the area of the public launching docks.

Do you have an estimate on how many boats would make this facility profitable?

Not yet. We are looking at attracting customers from Chicago and making it a huge center for sales and service. Construction is planned for some time in June.

Are there codes and best management practices for disposal of oil?

Yes. There will be a wash pad. We are fully aware of the codes and are reviewing the Lake County Storm Water management Plan.

What is the height/footprint of the building?

The building is 36 feet tall according to the Lake County News Sun newspaper. No one from the Waukegan Port District was consulted for the article.

North Plant

The North Plant has fewer ongoing activities. USEPA met with North Shore Gas in December to go over sampling results from Remedial Investigation (RI). The only information USEPA is asking for is on the Derringer Road sampling location. Unfortunately the location is on ComEd property. This area underwent a site remediation program. According to the State, ComEd is in the middle of consolidating data from the remediation program and adding it to the database. USEPA expect these results very soon, hopefully in next month. Either that or USEPA is going to ask North Shore Gas to sample additional points. Once data is collected it will be compiled into another draft RI report this summer.

Questions

Why more is more sampling occurring?

USEPA is trying to figure out if the site is fully delineated / characterized. There is not full data on that northern boundary. North Shore Gas needs to fully characterize the site.

Will the report be available for the public?

Normally USEPA does not issue draft documents, but it will be possible to see it after it is finalized. USEPA can share contents at a CAG meeting as well.

IEPA

Nothing to report.

IDNR

Catherine Buchalski

IDNR is still working on the report for fish tissue analysis. There is an interest in doing more sampling and that is being negotiated.

Also, we have two new staff members to work on the Coastal Zone Management Act Section 309 Enhancement Grants Program. There are separate sections of funding that include ravine, sand management, and wetlands.

Questions

Why do you want more testing?

Catherine did not have that answer at this time.

How much is the budget?

IDNR did not have that information yet.

City of Waukegan

Not present.

Reading of some articles that have circulated about City plans since February

Vet Fest has been moved to July 2016. It involves a big music event to be held on the lakefront. A number of questions are being asked, but there have been no answers. There could be up to 70,000 people in attendance. There are concerns as there is only one road in and out.

The City is looking for permission to close off the Amstutz to use as parking. People would be bussed from there over to the event. A stage will be set up on the swimming beach, one on the west side and one on the existing parking lot.

This event will impact the area just restored under GLRI grant (Waukegan Dunal Area). It is still unclear what weekend the fest will occur.

Jurisdiction of the site first goes to UFWS, then IDNR.

CAG BUSINESS

Johns Manville

Matt Ohl, USEPA Project Manager

Tat Ebihara, AECOM

There has been a lot of good progress on the 3 main project areas. The Industrial Canal final clean cover construction was completed last year. The Pumping Lagoon is also completed. This year there is some final contouring needed for seeding and one small construction pending for the east end.

Other major areas of activity are on the western perimeter. There has been soil removal action – this involves removal of all asbestos contaminated materials from that corridor. This year compost and sand mixture placement will occur, followed by revegetation, then wetland mitigation of the corridor. Work did not require rerouting of sanitary sewer because we were able to maintain the integrity of sewer line!

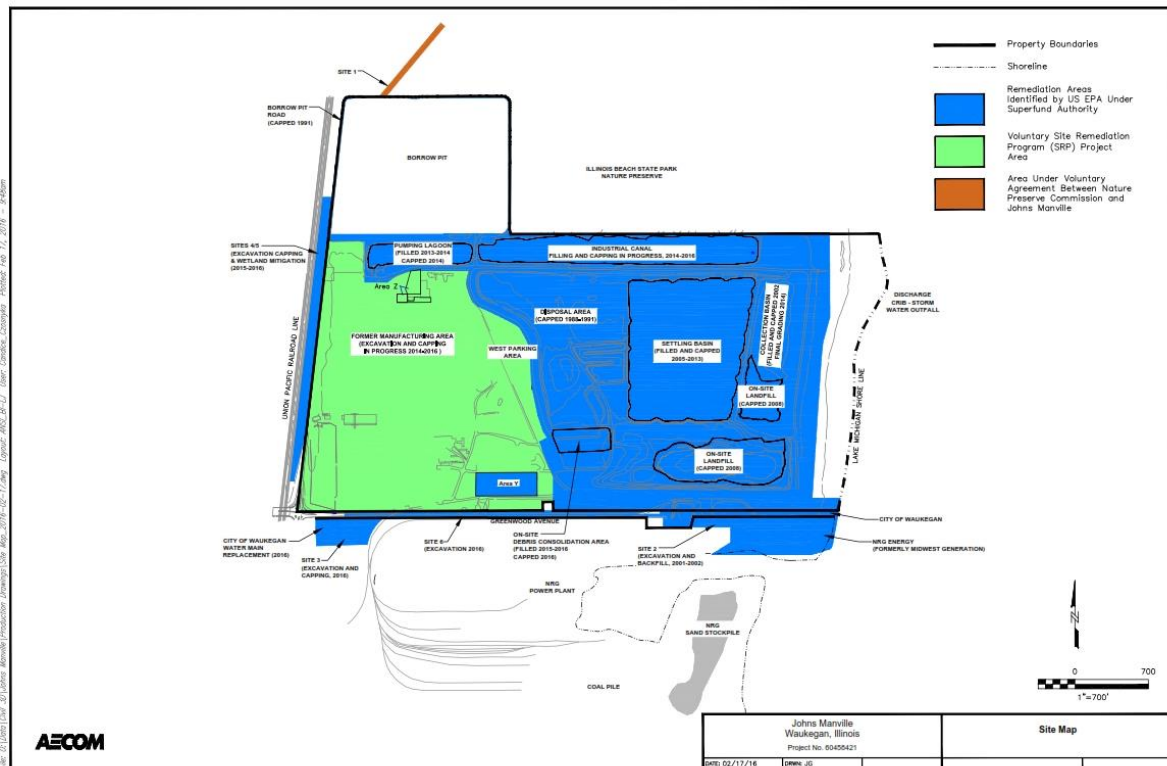
Finally, in progress for this year, the state Voluntary Site Remediation Program area (green on the map) has clean cover construction underway. Approximately 40-45 of 103 acres are completed thus far. Other remaining areas are all asbestos contained soil covers. There is no exposed soil. Construction of cover continues with 30 inches of clean soil plus 6 inches of clean clay.

Construction plans for 2016 include:

- final seeding for both sites;
- excavation and soil removal /capping on site 3 for the ComEd land parcel; and
- soil removal actions on the Greenwood Avenue strip.

These actions will probably be completed in 2017. Restrictions for site use are outlined under the 2004 Consent Decree. These are in place with the Illinois EPA and USEPA, and are on record in Lake County. The restrictions prevent development or any construction that will disturb the remedy.

Concern was expressed that the City wanted to develop that site, in spite of there being a clear public record in the Consent Decree with development restrictions.



Questions

Is there a climate change plan?

No, there is not a climate change Plan. When we started we weren't worried about lake levels rising and they probably will not rise to levels that will affect the site. Measures are in place to protect Lake Michigan. The pumping lagoon and industrial canal used to drain into the lake, but this no longer happens - everything stays onsite.

How large is the site?

About 350 acres

Where does clean sand for the cap come from?

It is excavated from the clean borrow pit area in the northwest area of the site and a portion of that sand went to the state remediation area. It passed stringent requirements. Clean clay will be placed above that.

What area is being re-vegetated?

The state managed parcel (Voluntary Site Remediation Program) and industrial canal.

Are there any exceptions to the restrictions in the consent decree? What about on the USEPA managed portion?

You would have to negotiate and have a change made to the consent decree. All parties (USEPA and IEPA) would have to agree. Johns Manville owns the whole site and while we can't speak for them, I'm sure liability exposure is a concern.

Is the site being managed for grassland birds?

The vegetative covers being put-up on the site are for an abandoned waste site. It is meant for no development. It was not designed for habitat enhancement, but obviously it can be used as habitat by birds.

If the property were to be additionally capped to make it accessible for use, what would the cost be?

We don't have those numbers.

Is the lab data available on the clean sand stockpiled on the site?

Yes. That report was submitted to IEPA – it should be available there.

Is the site going to be fenced in, with no access and no walking trails?

Yes.

Can the Voluntary Site Remediation Program area have a possible re-visit, as far as use?

Maybe.

Will there be any signage on fences?

Yes, and they are warning that the site is an asbestos disposal area.

USACE Great Lakes Navigation Stakeholder Meeting

Last Thursday there were 4 representatives from the Waukegan Harbor AOC and Extended AOC and Waukegan Port District present at the USACE annual Great Lakes Navigation Stakeholder meeting. The event was very well attended. Presenters were from the Chicago, Detroit and Buffalo USACE Districts. Topics covered Great Lakes Regional Needs and Challenges, Key District Projects and Challenges, Great Lakes Maritime Initiative Recommendations, Key USACE Legislative Activities, NOAA Marine Sanctuaries and Stakeholder Perspectives/Open Discussions. Waukegan Harbor ranks #57 out of 136 Great Lakes Harbors in recreational activity and commercial volume. Congress is now understanding the importance of both low and high use harbors, and funding is coming on line for maintenance a bit better.

Our continual meetings and partnership with USACE over many years has paid off in many ways. The North Pier seawall along the Federal Entrance Channel will be now be repaired! Currently all the preliminary planning work is being done. USACE will give a presentation on the project scope and work plan this coming fall to the Waukegan Harbor CAG. The seawall repairs will remove current structural and safety impairments when completed for this section of the Waukegan Swimming Beach.

It was also announced that the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund has a goal to get 100% of it's in place and growing funding in full use by 2025. It is included in the recent WRDA (Water Resource Development Act, not as a binding provision, but as a road map for Congressional spending for which there is now huge Congressional support. This is a Bi-partisan success story to celebrate.

Questions

When was last time the seawall was repaired?

We are not sure. Some smaller remedial actions to remove hazards have taken place recent years. Government Pier forming the south side of the Federal Entrance Channel was partially repaired a number of years ago, but still needs to be finished.

Waukegan Port District – Canoe & Kayak Launch – Joe Siedelmann

The goal is to have the canoe and kayak launch unit installed in May. The shoreline just to the south of the public launch area where it will be installed will be upgraded, making it a nicer spot. The Waukegan Port District is also working on parking lot improvements, including more handicap parking. There has been a delay with the coordinating related to the shipping of the canoe/kayak launch unit. The manufacturer is trying to piggyback the unit on another order to avoid the higher trucking costs.

Questions

Would you be interested in help?

Yes. Lake Michigan Water Trails and Laurie Morse will be promoting canoeing and kayaking events every year. Plus, we are looking into corporate partners that could come with insurance, instructors and equipment to handle rentals and instruction. We did have an IDNR Grant, but we don't know if we will ever see that. Donations and funding assistance could help expedite the project.

Lake Michigan Water Trails

Laurie Morse

We want to thank the Waukegan Port District for all their work on the handicap canoe and kayak launch. This is the only handicap canoe and kayak launch on the Illinois coast. We would also like to thank the Waukegan Harbor CAG for their leadership and understanding in helping coordinate the project. This launch means so much for veterans and seniors – it's amazing! Thank you to Lake County Nature Network and Cool Learning Experience who brought their students down to experiment using canoes.

Research Buoys off Waukegan and North Shore Shoreline – Laurie Morse

Several Paddling groups and the Lake Michigan Water Trails group has been looking for real-time data monitoring the lake conditions. With the help of NOAA funding and a partnership with Purdue University, last fall we got a buoy that can do just that. This will be crucial for the Waukegan Harbor, too. We can gather data for wave height, weather conditions, etc. The buoy is currently located about 4 miles east of the Winnetka and Glencoe boating beach. Forecasts have been improved already. The sailing community consult buoy data before they head out.

The more support this buoy gets, the better chance we have of getting funding for more - we might even get a buoy for Waukegan. We are very grateful to Purdue University for all their help. If there is an issue with the buoy you can email Purdue and they will fix it right away. However, Illinois needs to be involved in the process, and we would like to have an Illinois partner.

Waukegan High School History Project

Last month we shared 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 are invited to hear their presentation at UIC on April 5th. UPDATE: Part of the group won at the Chicago level and are going to the State finals. They will do a brief presentation at the May CAG Meeting.

By-Laws and Policy & Procedure Manual

This will be a key feature of the next Waukegan Harbor CAG meeting. There has been lot of response to last month's meeting. We wanted to be supportive of the Areas of Concern and Extended Area of Concern mission statement and goals as we continue to work on ~~into~~ protecting the integrity of the whole Lake Michigan shoreline in the area of Waukegan, Illinois. In addition to public discussions at recent Waukegan Harbor CAG meetings, numerous informal conversations over the past year have identified that the Waukegan Harbor CAG is important for the Waukegan community and Lake County citizens and should stay active! Please make your positions known as the By Laws are reviewed and updated.

Nominating Committee

This will be established soon and discussed at the next meeting.

Illinois Environmental Council - Update on pending State legislation

Currently the State of Illinois does not have the money to fund food, ~~and~~ hospitals, education and humans service programs. There are also large funding cuts for IDNR and environmental programs in the proposed state budget. However, there is a bill to fund the trapping, spaying/neutering, release and feeding of feral cats (HB 4671). Included in this bill are provisions for legal and financial shelters for this program for feral and stray cats. Chicago Audubon (part of the National Audubon Society) and a number of other environmental organizations are not in favor of using the scare state funds for this type of project.

Revitalizing our Ravines: Community Workshop 2016

Just a reminder about the *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. The hosts are truly trying to reach Village, City, Parks and Public Works Department personnel in Lake Michigan shoreline communities, and private property owners in the same areas.

NEW BUSINESS

Smith Nature Symposium

Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 5:30-9:30 pm

The Smith Nature Symposium is an annual benefit event for Brushwood Center. The Symposium is presented in collaboration with the Lake County Forest Preserves. The evening of the Smith Nature Symposium features a reception, benefit dinner, award presentation and keynote address. Speaker is Dr. J. Drew Lanham, Alumni Distinguished Prof. of Wildlife Ecology at Clemson University. He is speaking on the "deep connection between ethnicity, land and conservation mapping overlapping habitat for birds and people".

ANNOUNCEMENTS -Please note:

- Tomorrow there is an Earth Day celebration at Byron Colby Barn and Congressman Dold is attending.

- Cool Learning Experience is getting the word out about National Get Outdoors Day, taking place on June 11th. They are holding a Fun Run fundraiser. You can't sign up yet online, but information will be on their Facebook page.
- The Waukegan Harbor CAG, in partnership with Lake Forest Openlands, would like to announce that we have hired one Eco Ambassador this summer, paid through the Administrative Grant. The program is starting on June 6th and running through July 29th

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Geiselhart, and seconded by Barbara Waller. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:13 pm.

CAG Members

*Abbott Laboratories
 Akzo Nobel
 Alliance for the Great Lakes
 City of North Chicago
 City of Waukegan
 College of Lake County
 Commonwealth Edison
 Conserve Lake County
 Foss Park District
 Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council
 Illinois Audubon Society
 Integrated Lakes Management
 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.
 NRG Waukegan Station
 National Gypsum
 North Shore Gas
 North Shore Water Reclamation District
 Salmon Unlimited
 Sierra Club – Illinois Chapter
 Tanner Environmental*

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
 US Navy
 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.