



## Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group

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**Minutes of the May 19<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 May, 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 everyone to identify themselves and any group which they represent.

### **Attendance at the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 CAG Meeting:**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Kevin Adler      | USEPA  |
| Larry Brewer     | Concerned Citizen                            |
| Tom Chefalo      | Lake County Planning, Building & Development |
| Tim Drexler      | USEPA  |
| Charlie Hoffmann | Lake Forest Open Lands & Concerned Citizen   |
| Paul Kakuris     | Concerned Citizen                            |
| Heriberto León   | USEPA  |
| Lauren Luebker   | AKZO Nobel Aerospace Coatings                |
| Steve Myers      | Johns Manville                               |
| Matt Ohl         | USEPA  |
| Rich Romanek     | National Gypsum                              |
| Susie Schreiber  | Illinois Audubon, Waukegan Harbor CAG        |
| Fred Veenbaas    | NRG, Inc. Waukegan Station                   |

### **GUESTS:**

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Kathy Flesher  | Waukegan High School    |
| Celeste Flores | Clean Power Lake County |
| Hans Holmberg  | LimnoTech               |
| Craig Taylor   | LimnoTech               |

### **AGENDA**

There were no additions made to the agenda.

### **MINUTES**

A motion to accept the March 2016 minutes were made as follows: Larry Brewer moved to accept and the motion was seconded by Fred Veenbaas. After discussion and review, the motion carried with all in favor.

## **UPDATES**

**USEPA** – Heriberto León

### **North Shore Gas (Former Manufactured Gas Plant)**

#### **North Plant - US EPA and North Shore Gas await ComEd data**

North Shore Gas is working on completing their full characterization of the site so that they can finalize their draft Remedial Investigation report. However, US EPA is concerned about some data gaps along Dahringer Road between the North Plant and the ComEd facility, which has been undergoing site remediation under the Illinois EPA voluntary cleanup program. If the Illinois EPA releases this ComEd data to US EPA it would assist in the characterization of the North Plant and could potentially make it unnecessary to have to collect additional data that is currently missing for full characterization. Otherwise, North Shore Gas may be required to collect additional sampling data for their RI report.

#### **South Plant - US EPA and Waukegan Port District continue discussions on boat storage and cleanup construction**

US EPA has been working with the Waukegan Port District to determine if the proposed boat storage building will pose any problem with regards to USEPA's implementation of the remedy to remove DNAPL – (Non Aqueous Phase Liquid), which is the source of groundwater contamination, underneath the site. US EPA provided a preliminary assessment to the Waukegan Port District on May 2nd, indicating that the proposed horizontal recovery wells using directional drilling methods underneath the proposed boat storage building could still be installed, but additional measures to protect people using the proposed building will need to be considered. These include vapor mitigation/barrier systems described in the State of Illinois Building Control Technology regulations and non-engineered controls (institutional controls) such as a restrictive covenant that would put restrictions on installing groundwater wells and ensuring that the installed vapor mitigation or barrier system is operating as designed. US EPA and the Waukegan Port continue to have ongoing discussions on the proposed design of the boat storage building so that the Agency (US EPA) can continue to monitor any potential issues that may come up relating to implementation of the DNAPL cleanup efforts.

### **Yeoman Creek Landfill**

#### **Gas monitoring continues. Reports in the works: Phase 2 Plan, Progress Report and Five-Year Review.**

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

The US EPA has completed the review of the Phase 2 Additional Protective Measures Final Work Plan and the comments were submitted to the Yeoman Creek Remediation Group (YCRG) on 4/8/16. A conference call meeting was held on 4/20/16, which was attended by US EPA, Illinois EPA and the YCRG to discuss US EPA comments on Phase II. Based on this conference call, a revised Phase II plan was submitted to US EPA on 5/2/16, which is currently being reviewed.

YCRG submitted their Progress Report for February 2016 through March 2016 in April, 2016, which US EPA is currently reviewing.

US EPA is also conducting a five-year review for the Yeoman Creek Landfill Site. A site inspection for the five-year review is currently scheduled for July 11 and 12. It is expected that the 2017 five-year review report will be finalized in February 2017.

**Johns Manville Corp. site - Matt Ohl, USEPA Project Manager**  
***Work continues to seed, stabilize, cover and plan***

At the Industrial Canal, final contouring has been completed, and test plot seeding will begin as soon as additional seed supply is available. US EPA is working with Brad Semel of IDNR to develop 3 seeding options:

- Canada wild rye seeding
- Cover oats
- An acceptable organic amendment (e.g. compost)

Work started to stabilize the banks in the Borrow pit and Settling Basin. Drier weather is needed to complete work.

On the Illinois SRP (State Remediation Program) area (former manufacturing area), NRG clean sand import was completed on May 11. The import of more sand is under consideration and may be proposed to Illinois EPA.

At the Southwestern Sites Area, US EPA reviewed and approved a Revised Removal Action Work Plan. At Site 4/5 on the west boundary of the site upland swale seeding has been completed. For Site 6 along 2 Greenwood Avenue around the old Transite (asbestos-containing pipe) water main that serves the JM property and NRG, Inc. there is an investigation plan under review. US EPA is working with the City of Waukegan to determine what the water main life expectancy is and other construction details.



## **IEPA**

No updates were presented at this meeting.

## **IDNR** – Susie Schreiber

### Fish sampling

- The IDNR performed sampling in summer 2015 and is working on analyzing the results. The IDNR sent the results to the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program and spoke to one of the program members (representative from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency). He indicated that there seems to be a downwards trend as compared to the 2013 data. In order for the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program to make recommendations on the fish consumption advisory level, two years of consecutive data are needed. Therefore the IDNR is planning on sampling fish again in 2016 to gather additional data. The IDNR is expected to also sample in 2017.
- IDNR fisheries staff have new electrofishing equipment that they will use for the upcoming sampling. The IDNR expects that with the new equipment they will be able to gather more of the samples that they need. The equipment that was used in 2015 was not as powerful and for some species (like largemouth bass) the IDNR did not collect the maximum number of samples needed for the study.

### Developing an Illinois Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

- The federal Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), administered by NOAA, provides funds to states for the acquisition and conservation of coastal or estuarine areas with significant ecological, recreational, historical or aesthetic value.
- To be eligible for competitive NOAA funding, a lead public entity must submit a statewide CELCP plan that assesses the state's conservation priorities.
- IDNR's Coastal Management Program is in the process of developing a state plan, with a goal of submitting it to NOAA in October 2016.
- The IDNR plans to present at a future Waukegan Harbor CAG meeting to obtain CAG input on conservation priorities.

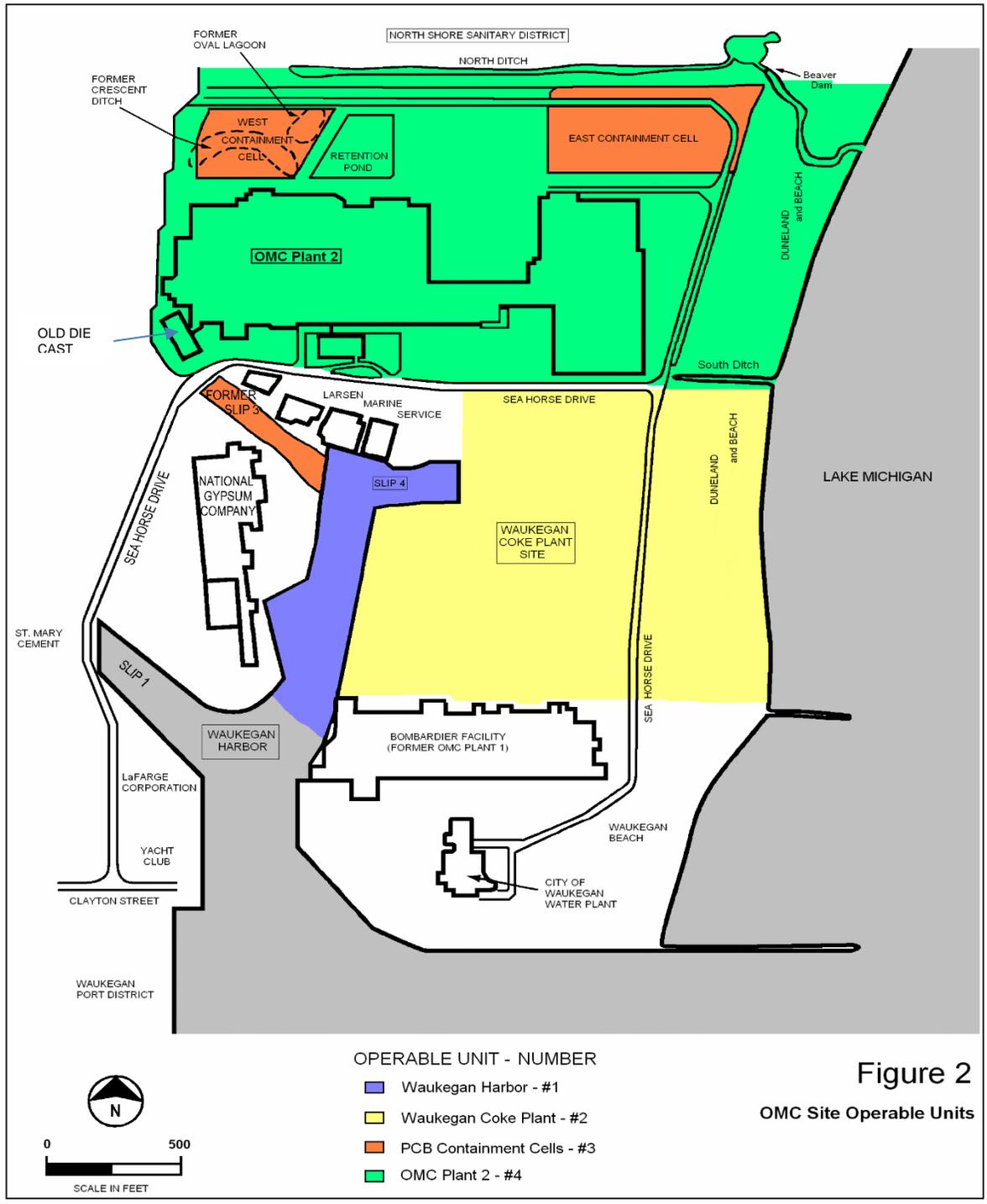
## **City of Waukegan**

No updates were presented at this meeting.

## **CAG BUSINESS**

### **OMC Superfund Site** – Tim Drexler USEPA

The contractors are finishing up their final remediation work.



North Ditch – Op Unit 4

Work has been completed on the sites within the ditch most highly contaminated (80 – 90 ppm) with PCBs. Divers assisted with the dredging. The US EPA is currently considering how to

address the sites within the ditch that contain lower levels of PCBs (4 – 7 ppm). Capping is one of the options that is currently under consideration.

Sites in a stream flowing into the ditch that have low levels of PCBs have been identified and will be addressed.

#### OMC Plant 2 Site - Op Unit 4

Contractors are currently excavating isolated sites on the west edge of the OMC plant site that contain PCBs with levels averaging about 4 – 5 ppm but with a highest reading of 30 ppm. The work should be completed by the end of next week.

The US EPA is continuing to monitor groundwater from the site of residual TCE (trichloroethylene) contamination in the center of the OMC plant site to determine if any additional remediation work is needed to address the TCE contamination.

#### Die cast cell – Op Unit 4

By the end of July US EPA contractors will be selecting a subcontractor to complete work on the Old Die Cast Cell. We hope that it will be completed by the end of August.

#### Coke Plant Site – Op Unit 2

A cap of between 2 and 3 feet and ground cover needs to be applied to the site. A total of 85,000 cubic yards of clean sediment from the Outer Harbor of the Federal Channel was used on the site last year. The City of Waukegan has asked for a commercial ground cover mix to be used on the site.

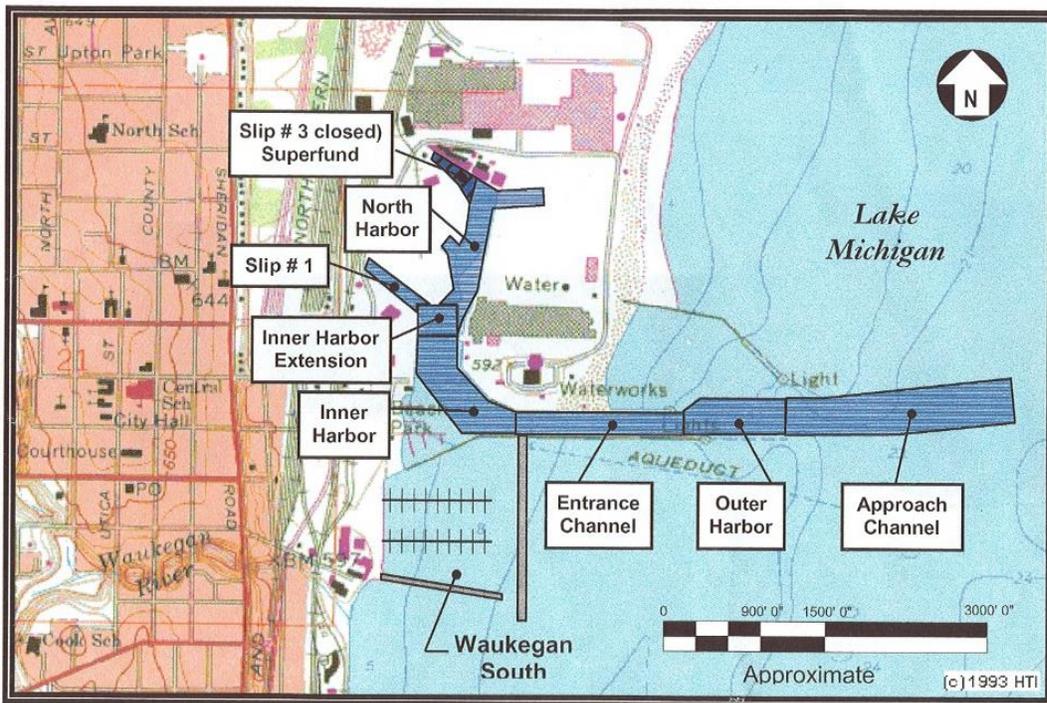


Figure 1: Waukegan Harbor Sections

### **Waukegan High School History Project Presentation - "Poisoned Past, Bright Future"**

Waukegan High School students Josie Blake, Katherine Flesher, Liesl Greider, Kathia Perez and Kara Stiver were finalists in the Illinois State History Day State Exposition competition in Springfield on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Their documentary, presented at the meeting, recorded the history of contamination at Yeoman Creek and Waukegan Harbor, the impacts of the contamination on residents and the work that has been completed to clean up the two sites. Local environmentalists, the Waukegan Harbor CAG and US EPA staff were interviewed as part of the compilation of the history of the sites.

### **LimnoTech Research Buoys** – Craig Taylor and Hans Holmberg of LimnoTech

LimnoTech is in the process of deploying buoys in Lake Michigan for monitoring and modeling lake conditions in partnership with NOAA, Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant and the Illinois Coastal Zone Management Program. Its location is in Lake Michigan approximately 4 miles due east of the Glencoe/Winnetka village line.

Fixed monitoring solutions expanded in the Great Lakes after 2010. Cellular technology has allowed for the rapid expansion of buoys. The number of buoys have been increasing in Lake Michigan.

The buoys measure wave heights, water temperature and wind speed and direction. Water quality can also be measured, though it is currently only measured off Toledo in Lake Erie. The buoys also served as platforms for custom monitoring equipment - bat migrations, bird migrations, fisheries data, etc.

The buoys provide real time data to recreational boater and fisherman in addition to universities and researchers.

Buoys have not been used to monitor sand transport, but there is an opportunity in the nearshore of Waukegan to utilize the newest technology to do so.

### **Great Lakes Nearshore Framework** – Susie Schreiber

A Nearshore Framework for the Great Lakes has been drafted and is now available for a sixty-day review period ending on July 12, 2016. Development of the Nearshore Framework for the Great Lakes are being led by the Lakewide Management Annex Subcommittee of the Great Lakes Executive Committee (Created by the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement) and supported by subject matter experts from Canadian and U.S federal agencies, state and provincial agencies, watershed management agencies, academia, public organizations and private contractors. The draft is available on the CAG website.

### **Waukegan Park District Live Green Event** – Susie Schreiber

The Waukegan Park District will be holding its Live Green Event on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> from 5 to 8 PM at Bowen Park.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

GRLI 2010 grant – will report out to the CAG at the June meeting.  
By-laws and Policy and Procedures Manual review and update at the June Meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chicago Wilderness has increased its membership dues by several hundred dollars. There was discussion whether the Waukegan Harbor CAG should continue to renew its membership and whether it would be possible to negotiate discuss a lower membership fee for the CAG.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Tom Chefalo made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Larry Brewer. The meeting was adjourned by voice vote.

## **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.  
Liberty Prairie Conservancy  
NRG Midwest Generation  
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 Depart. of Natural Resources (IDNR)  
IDNR Coastal Zone  
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  
US Navy  
University of Illinois- Marine Extension  
Waukegan Public Library  
Concerned Citizens*