



Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group

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Minutes of the June 16th, 2016, CAG meeting held at Lilac Cottage, Waukegan Park District, Waukegan respectfully submitted by Penny Bouchard, acting as Recording Secretary of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group.

The June 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 that they represent.

Attendance at the June 16th, 2016 CAG Meeting: (

Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	Concerned Citizen
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Lisa Luhrs Draper	Concerned Citizen, Bowen Neighbor
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Charlie Hoffmann	Lake Forest Open Lands & Concerned Citizen
Bill Lebensorger	Concerned Citizen and GLRI Grant Administrator
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Ania Ruszaj	IDNR
Susie Schreiber	Waukegan Harbor CAG, Illinois Audubon
Quentin Schwitrz	Waukegan Yacht Club
Chris Tanner	Tanner Environmental Company
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Celeste Flores	Clean Power Lake County
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AGENDA

There were no additions made to the agenda.

MINUTES

There were no minutes presented for approval at this meeting.

UPDATES

USEPA – Heriberto León

Johns Manville Superfund Site

- Test plot and settling basin were seeded.
- The banks in the settling basin and borrow pit have been stabilized.
- Sites 3 and 6 on the south side of Greenwood have had an access issue with a gas main. The gas main is being decommissioned by North Shore Gas. Ground water is being pumped at these sites.
- The road on the northwest side of the site that goes into Illinois Beach State Park still needs repair and is under study. The road work that continues is currently ongoing maintenance only.

Yeomen Creek Landfill Superfund Site

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

- The EPA-approved biweekly landfill gas monitoring continues routinely with no significant changes.
- The US EPA completed the review of the Phase 2 Additional Protective Measures Final Work Plan. The revised Work Plan was approved on June 14, 2016.
- The Yeomen Creek Remediation Group (YCRG) is planning to implement the Phase 2 Remediation effort this summer.
- US EPA is also conducting a five-year review for the Yeoman Creek Landfill Site that is due in early 2017. 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.

North Shore Gas (Former Manufactured Gas Plant sites) no report.

IEPA

No updates were presented at this meeting.

IDNR – Susie Schreiber per May 26 email:

- The IDNR is developing a Coastal Clean Water Plan, a copy of which is located on the CAG website. Comments are due on June 24th.
- The IDNR is starting to sample fish for the 2016 year to gather additional data on PCB concentrations. The IDNR is expect to also sample in 2017.
- 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. They can use the current coastal zone or extend it for beneficial reasons for this program. The money in this program is dedicated to the Great Lakes. Land acquisition has to be by a public body. They could connect private property to public land. The IDNR plans to present at a future CAG meeting to obtain CAG input on conservation priorities.

City of Waukegan

No updates were presented at this meeting.

CAG BUSINESS

OMC Superfund Site – Bill Lebensorger for Tim Drexler of USEPA

The contractors are finishing up their final remediation work.

Plant site – East end

Additional PCBs have been identified on the east end of the site. Bill Lebensorger went out with Tim Drexler's crew to review the areas for Plants of Concern (POC). USEPA wanted to know what plants might be impacted by their proposed work, and offered to have their contractor modify their remediation access routes to avoid the plants if at all possible. The POC include some sedge.

LimnoTech Research Buoys

Craig Taylor and Hans Holmberg of LimnoTech were at the CAG meeting last month to discuss the process of deploying nearshore buoys in Lake Michigan for monitoring and modeling lake conditions. They met with concerned lake shore partners in the afternoon. It was identified that a buoy could be deployed at an approximate cost of \$15,000 or a Lidaid flyover pre and post storm could identify the changes in the near shore conditions. The CAG and its partners are identifying the issues involved with data collection. They talked to Indiana/Illinois Sea Grant. There are three focuses on near shore currents that were identified to be of special interest: the entrance to the South Waukegan Harbor, the Federal channel connecting to the North Waukegan Harbor and a determination of sand movement.

Trout Unlimited

Three gentlemen from Salmon Unlimited attended a full site tour of the Bowen Park, the B2 wetlands, the JM site and Dahringer Road area. They want to see how fish are connecting to ravines and rivers in the area. Despite the presence of Bucky Beaver on the OMC site, fish are swimming upstream. Salmon that had previously been seen in the North Ditch were discussed. The salmon have also been seen going up the Waukegan River to at least Genesee Street.

The Salmon Unlimited group can do children education. This is also an area that can be covered by the Eco-Ambassadors. Projects could include the measuring of fish for Trout Unlimited use.

American Birding Conservancy

This is an international group from DC. They contacted the CAG because they had heard about the high quality of birding and restoration that has been done in the area. They will make a site visit next week as a result of a visit to the Ramsar sites. They believe the area will become a tourism opportunity for Waukegan. Different groups are asking how they can help maintain the areas.

Eco-Ambassador Intern

There was only one Eco-Ambassador this year. Alexia Bedolla worked with Rachael Good on the Plants of Concern data and conducted follow-up monitoring. Other projects in Bowen Park included measuring fish for Trout Unlimited in the Glen Flora Ravine, identifying red headed wood pecker use areas, identification of three sites to evaluate deer impacts, and pictorial documentation of species using the frog pond as well as the dragonflies behind the Jack Benny Center.

Micro Plastics – The Issues and the Impacts for Lake Michigan and beyond - Tom Chefalo

Plastic and microplastic pollution are often discussed as a problem facing the world's oceans. Unfortunately it is also a problem in the Great Lakes. Micro-plastics come in many forms including microbeads, weathered fragments of material that originate from larger plastic objects and microfibers.

Though microbead containing products have been banned in Illinois they are still available in other Great Lake states. The federal microbead ban is being phased in over time. So it is important to read the label before one purchases personal care products such as facial scrubs. In addition, our medicine cabinets and closets may contain products that were purchased before the Illinois ban went into effect. In a 2014 sampling of Lake Erie and Ontario nearshore waters, it was found that microbeads make up about 14% of all microplastics in the Great Lakes.

Plastic fragments make up the majority of the microplastics in the Great Lakes, the 2014 study finding that they comprised of 56% of the total microplastics. The material originates as plastic litter, such as bottles, other large plastic objects such as toys, or items associated with the recreational or commercial boating and fishing activities, that have been mechanical weathered into finer material.

Another significant source of microplastics include microfibers, materials of 5 mm or less, that accounted for 16% of the material in the 2014 study. (One study suggests that the Lake Michigan basin near Chicago contains higher amounts of microfibers.) The source of these materials include rope and nets, cigarette butts and clothing. Clothes washing accounts for the majority of the source of the material. Mark Browne, a microfiber pollution expert, estimated that the average piece of polyester, nylon or acrylic clothing sheds approximately 1,900 individual microfibers during one washing cycle. The material isn't captured by washing machines or waste water treatment facilities and unlike natural fibers such as cotton, flax or wool, plastic microfibers don't decay quickly in the Great Lakes environment.

Microfibers can contain toxic materials, both in the form of dyes that were incorporated into them when they were manufactured and because many toxic chemicals, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, present in lake water are attracted to and adhere to the microfiber material. Because these fibers are so

small they can enter the human food stream indirectly through their ingestion by plankton and filter feeding animals and then into predators, including fish and birds. Microfibers have been found in fish in the Great Lakes and traces of toxins have been recorded in the flesh of fish adjacent to the fibers. Microfibers are also present in drinking water.

The solution to this problem is not apparent. One can chose to purchase only clothing made of natural fibers, however, cotton production is associated with significant environmental issues of its own. It could be possible to filter microfibers out of the washing machine waste water or trapping them at a waste water treatment facility. They would still need to disposed of in an environmentally sound manner that wouldn't just release them into the environment in some other form, such as in Milorganite or fertilizer created as a byproduct of waste water treatment, and upgrading the facilities would require significant investments. It has also been suggested that textile manufacturers re-engineer their manufacturing process to produce textiles that release fewer fibers but so far they have been reluctant to do so.

Dr. Mark Anthony Browne who is currently at the UC Santa Barbara is an expert in microfiber pollution in water bodies and Sherri "Sam" Mason, a chemist at the State University of New York at Fredonia has studied the issue in the Great Lakes. The research organization 5 Gyres has funded some plastic pollution research in the Great Lakes and is working on the problem of plastic pollution across the globe. A Fact Sheet is attached to the minutes

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 or 23, 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. Your government wants to hear from you – you can have a voice.

Revitalizing Our Ravines – Community Workshop at Chicago Botanic Garden

Openlands, the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Field Museum and the Alliance for the Great Lakes hosted a ravine workshop that was well attended. There is not a consensus how to work on ravines. The organizers tried to get public works departments to attend the meeting from municipalities that extended from north to south on the lakefront. Some of the attendees included Milwaukee, Lake Forest, Lake Bluff and Highland Park. Mike Prusila of Lake County Stormwater Management made an excellent presentation that will be shared with the CAG at the September meeting. It was interesting to hear the different perspectives from the municipalities, concerned residents and the US Army Corp of Engineers. A map of the lakeshore diversity was provided.

Great Lakes Stakeholder Participation – **Not sure on this one....**

Healing Our Waters provides \$10,000 grants that helped the Waukegan Park District take down dead and damaged trees that are dangerous and known as ‘widow makers’.

Waukegan Park District Live Green Event – Susie Schreiber This is on the agenda but seems like a hold over from May

The Waukegan Park District will be holding its Live Green Event on Saturday May 21st from 5 to 8 PM

GLRI Wrap Up - Bill Lebonsorger. My notes are as follows and are rough.

Bowen Park: It was reported that the Bowen Triangle needs additional buffer work. The Park District (?) is working to create a group of volunteers that will be the eyes and ears of the area. The Chicago Botanical Garden is interested in follow-up on the Plants of Concern (POC) in the park. They want to identify what invasives are around the high quality plants.

The Park District also wants to involve the Bowen Neighbors. They want to invite them over – there is interest in bike touring the area. They hope that this group can help monitor POC and add onto the work that will maintain the invasives that have been removed. People who learn more will become more attached to this high quality area.

Dunal Area and Private Land Owners. This is a much bigger area to work on long term for which work continues.

Monitoring completed.

Storm damage dealt with.

Eagle Scout Project

Urban Nature Preserve

Pie Chart of \$\$\$ spent will be created.

Support from JM and Midwest Generation.

End use of how harbor is used. Events involved all sectors of the community working together.

Old Business

See Great Lakes Nearshore Framework above

New Business

None

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Chris Tanner made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Quentin Schwitz. 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>

Illinois EPA – Environmental Justice website.

<http://www.ilenviro.org>

Good listing of all environmental bills in the ILL House & Senate.

<http://www.glc.org>

Great Lakes Commission.

<http://www.binational.net>

Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy – 2002 Annual Progress Report

<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.cciw.solec>

State of the Great Lakes – SOLEC 2002 full report.

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

Annis Water Resources Institute

<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

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

*National Gypsum
North Shore Gas
North Shore Sanitary District
Outboard Marine Corporation
Salmon Unlimited*