

**Lower Menominee River Area of Concern
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting**

January 22, 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. CST
UW-Marquette, Marinette, WI
Minutes prepared by Laurel Last

***note: Things written in green denote potential action items.**

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Meeting attendees are updated on AOC sediment and habitat projects and have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss each one
- CAC members are informed about Spring SPAC meeting
- CAC members are informed about 2015 Regional AOC meeting
- CAC members discuss Menominee Conservation District's AOC roles and responsibilities
- CAC members discuss community outreach needs for 2015

ATTENDEES

Sharon Baker (MDEQ), Cheryl Bougie (WDNR), Donna Buechler (Menominee Conservation District), Chad Cook (UW-Extension), Jim Cox (Tyco), Mark Erickson (Co-Chair), Wendel Johnson (UW-Marquette), Laurel Last (WDNR), Trygve Rhude (Chappee Rapids Audubon Society), Keith West (Co-Chair), Larry Wilson (Tyco)

Introductions, Overview of Agenda – Mark Erickson and Keith West, CAC Co-Chairs

Betterment Action Update – Jim Cox (Tyco)

- At City Council meeting, Tyco provided 2015 overview and discussed 6th St. slip area
- Shared plans for 6th St. slip restoration—will be completed this spring-summer
- Plan is to turn area (including building) over to City in 2015 after work is done
- Water depth 7' around slip
- Channel depth 7' to 22' or more
- Larry—monitoring plan discussions are ongoing

Menekaunee Harbor Update – Cheryl Bougie (WDNR)

- Habitat restoration plan and specs will be complete in February
- Plan to bid out in March and award in April, implementation to start in June
- Renee Richer, new biology professor at UW-Marquette, is interested in getting her students involved in the AOC
- Renee and Keith can work together on monitoring for this project and South Channel
- Trygve—Noticed ice fishing shanty on Menekaunee Harbor—it's good to see the benefits of the restoration project already
- Will need to plan for recreational user access to protect the habitat area after it is restored

CAC letter to Menominee City Zoning Commission – Mark Erickson (CAC Co-Chair)

- CAC will send letter to City of Menominee supporting zoning ordinances as a means to protect natural areas (similar to letter to City of Marinette)
- Mark has written the letter, but is waiting for a good time to send it—City Planning Commission is currently busy with other issues

Green Island update – Mark Erickson and others

- Mark checked in with Nancy on this (she couldn't make it tonight)
- Development is moving forward
- Maybe we should ask John Gard to come to a CAC meeting to discuss this
- Others thought this was a good idea
- **Mark will contact John Gard about attending a future CAC meeting to discuss the Green Island development project**
- Laurel—Island's owner and their consulting firm recently contacted WDNR indicating that they wish to move forward with this development, and asking for a letter summarizing what we still need from them for "next steps" permitting

Menominee Conservation District roles and responsibilities as related to the AOC, and discuss CAC Letter of Support – Sharon Baker (MDEQ), Laurel Last, and Donna Buechler (Menominee Conservation District)

- Conference call December 16th to discuss MCD roles in AOC
- MCD could act as secretariat and fiduciary for CAC, help with outreach materials and events, newsletters, etc.
- Donna—Might work with students, Earth Day event, etc.
- Keith—Can help with that
- Sharon set aside MI capacity grant funding for our AOC last year (June 2014-May 2015)
- Donna sent proposal for funding to Sharon for her review
- Sharon is working on CAC letter of support—will send to Keith and Mark to sign
- **Donna needs to send final proposal and letter to Erika Jensen at GLC for approval**
- **Will need to apply again for next round of funding (June 2015-May 2016)**

Community Outreach needs for 2015 – Laurel Last, Sharon Baker, and others

- Laurel—WDNR is working on AOC Community Engagement Strategy
- Planning to provide support for AOC sign and display updates (UWEX), videos, and possibly other outreach materials and events
- Chad—Changes to signs and display pretty minor, should be ready by spring
- Laurel—Continue work on AOC videos focusing on Menekaunee Harbor restoration and sturgeon passage (Tyco arsenic cleanup video on hold)
- WDNR, MCD, and CAC will work together to be successful and not duplicate efforts

Spring SPAC Meeting – Sharon Baker

- Legislative Briefing in Lansing used to brief local legislators on status of BUIs; if new, then need to educate them on AOC issues
- Encourage CAC members to meet locally with Michigan State Representative and Senator prior to Lansing meeting
- Should CAC do same with Wisconsin's legislators?
- Spring Meeting Date and SPAC overarching goals not determined; usually 2-3 overall goals and then SPAC Rep encouraged to add 2-3 local goals or progress

2015 Regional AOC Conference – Laurel Last and Sharon Baker

- Laurel sent e-mail out with conference registration information
- March 11-12 in Toledo, Ohio
- Travel support available for CAC/TAC members—deadline to apply is February 13th
- Who will represent our AOC this year?

- Keith went to last year's conference and highly recommends it, but can't make it this year
- Donna might be able to go—she'll check her schedule
- Others support Donna going to the conference
- Laurel gave Donna travel support form
- Laurel noted that multiple people can apply for funding, just need to use same form
- Form needs to be submitted by CAC chair or AOC coordinator
- Sharon is planning on attending
- Laurel cannot attend (WDNR travel restrictions)

Lower Menominee River Fish Passage Update – Laurel Last

- Phase I – Downstream Passage at Park Mill Dam (Fish Bypass)
 - Some delays, but almost complete
 - Power canal is scheduled to begin refill on Monday, January 26
 - Will take a while to fill
- Phase II – Upstream Passage at Menominee Dam (Fish Lift)
 - On schedule to be complete by April 2015
- Phase III – Downstream Passage at Menominee Dam (Fish Bypass and trashrack replacement)
 - River Alliance of WI has signed GLRI grant agreement
 - Will be moving forward with final design (have 30% design) after team has reviewed new data from WDNR (report out soon)
 - Construction is expected to occur in 2016
- Phase IV – Upstream transport of lake sturgeon (Transport Trailer)
 - Further development for custom transport trailer is on hold
 - Will use existing truck/trailer to transport fish in 2015
- Rory Alsberg (ECRE) uploaded new photos to Google Drive
 - **Laurel will resend link to project photos**

South Channel Fish Passage and Restoration Update – Laurel Last

- Draft Concept Package from Anderson/Interfluve
- Sent to TAC to review—will meet in February to discuss
- USFWS paying for timeline acceleration
- Expect final designs in June instead of August; will hopefully allow more time for reviews and permitting ahead of construction bidding
- Goal is to begin implementation late fall/early winter 2015, finish planting in spring 2016

Island Rookery Habitat Enhancement Project update – Laurel Last

- In process of finalizing contractor scope of work to send out for bids
- Work will include cutting and removal of cut invasive plant material, chemical applications, and ultimately restoration planting
- Finalizing draft Invasive Species Control and Management Plan (ISCMP)
- USACE working on executed rights of entry (ROEs) with property owners
- Mapping of current baseline was completed across all 4 islands in early November
 - Golf course allowed access from their property for Blueberry Islands
 - Cyclepath (rented kayaks from him) allowed them to use his truck every day
- Upcoming schedule will become clearer once contractor(s) hired and ROEs are in place

Agency Updates

- Sharon submitted request to MDEQ Water Resources Division for non-wadeable survey in Lower Menominee River in 2015

- This is a qualitative benthos and habitat survey
- She did not discuss it with anyone at that time because submittals were already past due
- Sees it as an opportunity to gather baseline data for future monitoring
- Laurel, Cheryl, and others concerned about how this might affect Benthos BUI removal plans in 2015—target does not require benthos monitoring
- Larry is concerned about TYCO area, because benthos monitoring was not part of their AOC with EPA.
- Sharon does not think it will affect BUI removal schedule
- **Sharon will discuss this with Mike Bryant before deciding whether to withdraw the request**
- Fish contaminant monitoring report status—fish tissue in queue for lab
- Rio Vista Slough monitoring report status—results look good, report in progress
- **2014 RAP Update**
 - **Sharon reviewing Laurel's draft**
 - **After revising draft, will share with CAC and TAC for their review**

Public Comment and Other News

Identify Future Agenda Items & Meeting Date

- Next meeting February 19th?—YES
- Identify Agenda Topics—Send agenda ideas to Sharon and Laurel

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mark Erickson, Michigan CAC Co-Chair
MErickson@lloydflanders.com
 906-863-1954

Keith West, Wisconsin CAC Co-Chair
Keith.West@uwc.edu
 715-735-4300 x4352

Laurel Last, Wisconsin DNR
Laurel.last@wisconsin.gov
 920-662-5103

Sharon Baker, Michigan DEQ
BakerS9@michigan.gov
 517-284-5044

Michael Bryant, EPA Area of Concern Task Force Leader
Bryant.Michael@epa.gov
 312-886-5266

ONLINE RESOURCES

EPA – <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/aoc/menominee/index.html>

MDEQ – http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3677_15430_57388---,00.html

UW-Extension – <http://fyi.uwex.edu/aocs/>

WDNR – <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/greatlakes/menominee.html>

2013 RAP and F&W Plans available

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/greatlakes/documents/Menominee2013RAPUpdate.pdf>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/greatlakes/documents/Menominee2013FishAndWildlifePlan.pdf>