

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

October 16, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. CST

Minutes prepared by Laurel Last

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

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Meeting attendees are kept up-to-date with the current status of the Betterment Action and Menekaunee Harbor projects and have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss each one
- CAC members review and finalize letter to Marinette City Zoning Commission supporting zoning ordinances as a means to protect natural areas in the AOC
- CAC members discuss Menominee Conservation District's AOC roles and responsibilities
- CAC members learn about Fall SPAC meeting and AOC perceptions research project
- CAC members review and discuss actions needed and proposed schedule for BUI removals
- Understand the current status of the South Channel and other AOC habitat projects
- Check in on CAC based public outreach

ATTENDEES

Sharon Baker (MDEQ), Cheryl Bougie (WDNR), Donna Buechler (Menominee Conservation District), Jim Cox (Tyco), Mark Erickson (Co-Chair), Jon Kukuk (Nestegg Marine), Laurel Last (WDNR), Trygve Rhude (Chappee Rapids Audubon Society), Keith West (Co-Chair)

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

Betterment Action Update – Jim Cox (Tyco)

- Dredging is approximately 50% complete
- Estimated completion date early November
- No treatment failures
- 35,000 cubic yards estimated total for the Betterment project
- 20,000 man hours without incidents
- Begin disassembly of construction this year, finish next year
- Grand Haven rudder has been declared “clean” by WDNR—can be moved to museum
- AOC video project
 - Tyco video shoot postponed
 - Tyco management has concerns about video, currently under review
 - Meanwhile, they're going to take some video (b-roll) that could be used for the AOC video if it is approved (can do interviews later)
 - Laurel—That's great, because that way we'll have video while the work is in progress, even if it takes a while to get Tyco management's approval
- Jon Kukuk—Concerns about markers—need to have lit markers on the outside so boaters can see them at night
- **Jim will inform Larry Wilson of the concerns**

Menekaunee Harbor Update – Cheryl Bougie (WDNR)

- About 10 days of dredging left
- Totals do far:
 - Contaminated (environmental)—19,909 cu yds, 101% complete
 - Less contaminated (navigational)—20,874 cu yds, 88% complete
 - Uncontaminated (beneficial reuse)—6,394 cu yds, 39% complete
- Hydraulic dredging has been slowed down by excessive wood debris
- Due to excessive wood debris, it is likely will not have enough granular material to follow original plan
- Therefore, need to look at alternatives—dredge to deeper elevation, bring in clean material, sort/sift material to remove wood debris and use clean material, change depths in habitat plan
- Habitat plan in progress, Ayres will have a completed plan by end of this month—we will share with the TAC and CAC
- Keith—Talking with Ayres about having students do post-project plant and wildlife monitoring
- Jon Kukuk—Wood is floating outside of harbor, causing trouble for boaters
- Cheryl—Was not aware of that—**Will send out e-mail (after the call) to the dredge team to address**

CAC letter to Marinette City Zoning Commission – Keith West (CAC Co-Chair)

- Shared draft CAC letter supporting zoning ordinances as a means to protect natural areas
- Members approved letter
- Discussion about to whom to send the letter—Planning Commission, City Council, Mayor
- Discussion about sending a similar letter to the City of Menominee—group approved that idea
- **Laurel will send Keith's and Mark's signature blocks to Keith**
- **Keith will print and send City of Marinette letters**
- **Mark will work on draft City of Menominee letter, for discussion at next CAC meeting**

Menominee Conservation District roles and responsibilities as related to the AOC – Sharon Baker MDEQ)

- Donna Buechler is willing and able to provide services for our CAC
- Needs paragraph to take to her board about what she can do for us
- Possibilities include help with agendas, minutes, outreach, fiduciary for CAC grants
- General agreement that this is a good idea (especially fiduciary support)
- Question—Is there a paragraph already written from previous discussions?
- **Sharon will look for that in her files, and will work with Donna on getting her what she needs for her board**
- Keith invited Donna on an AOC tour he'll be doing with his class
- It was also suggested that she contact Cheryl Bougie about a tour of the Menekaunee Harbor project
- **Laurel will send Donna Cheryl's contact information**

Fall SPAC meeting October 30-31 and perceptions research project – Sharon Baker (MDEQ)

- Fall SPAC meeting will be held in White Lake and Muskegon Lake AOCs
- Keith and Mark cannot make it

- Sharon suggested that Donna could go for our AOC
- **Sharon will send Donna the meeting information and send her contact info to Matt Doss**
- Perceptions research study will be discussed at the meeting
 - How the public perceives White Lake and Muskegon Lake
 - Consider transition and “life after delisting”
 - Could do similar study for our AOC

South Channel Fish Passage and Restoration Update – Laurel Last (WDNR)

- Habitat design contract awarded to Anderson Engineering with Interfluve sub
- Kick-off meeting September 24th
- Contractor concerned with lack of flow in South Channel—believes bridge/road will cause channel to fill in with sediment even after removal of blockage under bridge
- Sent e-mail out to TAC and CAC for input on modifying the bridge for more flow
- General feeling is bridge will stay the same; need to work with what we have
- USACE to model flows, current condition and possible future conditions for scour, fish passage, to finish by end of year (GLLA funding)
- Design complete September 2015
- Implementation in 2016
- Some material under bridge was moved October 9th, and current depth about 1 foot

Lower Menominee River Fish Passage Update – Laurel Last (WDNR)

- Downstream passage at Park Mill Dam (fish bypass)—in progress and expected to be completed by October of this year
- Upstream passage at Menominee Dam (fish lift)—in progress and expected to be completed by April of next year
- Downstream passage at Menominee Dam (fish bypass and trashrack replacement)
 - Decisions made on trashrack spacing—1-inch spacing on smaller units and 2-inch spacing on bigger units
 - Can move ahead with grant—\$3 million GLRI funding
 - Next step will be hiring contractor to get to 100% design drawings from 30% design provided by USACE
 - Construction must be completed by September of 2016
- Upstream transport of lake sturgeon (transport trailer)—design /specs in progress, and construction of the trailer will be funded by Eagle Creek Renewable Energy and should be completed by spring 2015
- Operations Plan in progress, to be completed by end of 2014
- Research project (Dan Isermann, UW-Stevens Point)
 - Inserted transmitters and moved 16 sturgeon upstream yesterday
 - 120 total will be moved and monitored over next 2 years

Island Rookery Habitat Enhancement Project update – Laurel Last (WDNR)

- USACE has secured funding (\$400,000) through their Aquatic Plant Control authority for IS management on Lower Menominee islands (Blueberry, Little Blueberry, Boom, and Strawberry)

- 2 ½ year project, to end in 2016
- Demo project, adaptive management
- Long-term management not part of project, but can discuss—opportunity for local volunteers
- Contractors (Ecology and Environment, Inc.) almost done with quality control plan and health and safety plan
- Hope to conduct site visit this month or early next to GPS sites
- Let Laurel know if you'd like to meet with them when they're in town
- Update from Derek Strohl, BLM
 - Plans to plant trees on Strawberry Island next spring
 - Looking for advice on species and time to plant
 - Maybe set up meeting/call with UW-Marquette, Audubon Society, others

Actions needed for BUI removals – Laurel Last (WDNR) and Sharon Baker (MDEQ)

- BUI summary should include all actions remaining that are needed for BUI removals
- Revised from last month with more details and updated information

CAC Led Community Outreach – Keith West and others

- Nothing new to report
- Should start thinking about 2015 outreach plans

Agency Updates

- 2014 RAP Update—plan to share draft with CAC and TAC October 27th

Public Comment and Other News

Identify Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date

- Next meeting would be November 20, but Laurel will be at Audubon Society meeting
 - Alternate date—**December 4th**
 - Identify Agenda Topics
 - eBird data discussion—Ben will present
 - Letter to City of Menominee
 - Trygve—will look at funding options for South Channel south shore work (boardwalk, etc.)

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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>