

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

October 17, 2013

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. CDT

UW-Marinette, Theatre Conference room (T-139)

Desired Outcomes

- CAC members are aware of progress being made at the Ansul sediment cleanup site and have an opportunity for discussion with company representatives
- CAC members are presented core pieces of the 2013 Fish and Wildlife Plan. They have an opportunity to suggest changes, and are asked to consider signing a letter of support for the plan
- The next CAC meeting is scheduled including a plan for review of the 2013 RAP Update

Participating

Jim Cox (Tyco), Jeff Danko (CH2MHill), Sharon Baker (MDEQ), Cheryl Bougie & Ben Uvaas (WDNR), Mike Bryant (EPA), Nancy Douglas (Menominee Business Development Corp.), Mark Erickson (CAC Co-Chair), Jon Kukuk (Nest Egg Marine), Keith West (UW-Marinette), Steve Zander (CAC Co-Chair)

Monthly TYCO Sediment Remediation Update – Jim Cox & Jeff Danko

Dredging continues and is approaching completion with 198,650 cubic yards of material removed from the river. 300,361 tons of material has been processed, and 341,738 disposed of at the landfill. Around 160 truck loads are leaving the site daily. Erickson commented that although he's worked along the trucking route for years, he hasn't observed a notable increase in truck traffic.

Dredging is currently taking place in the in the turning basin, transition area, and south channel. Confirmation sampling is also underway. Tyco expects to reach the 50ppm arsenic concentration goal by November 1st. The 6th Street boat launch will be available for public use next summer, unless additional dredging is planned for next year.

Tyco is currently discussing the possibility of a betterment action with regulatory agencies, although one scheduled meeting was canceled due to the partial federal government shutdown. A betterment action would remove sediment with more than 20ppm arsenic through a federal cost share agreement. Danko noted that some of the south channel is being dredged to reach 20ppm this year. Members of the CAC were excited about the possibility of avoiding a long natural recovery process. Danko felt that using the current dredging approach a betterment action could be completed in a few months.

Kukuk asked what CH2MHill uses the pontoon being stored at Nest Egg Marine for. Danko confirmed that it is used for required inspections of the silt curtain and turbidity monitoring sample collection. Kukuk also mentioned this remediation has been a boon to the local economy and that Nest Egg Marine has sold several outboard motors related to the remediation project (\$40,000 value).

CAC Membership Review

Zander has resigned his WI co-chair position. He intends to stay involved with the committee, but has recently moved to Green Bay, and will not be able to participate in all future meetings. West was nominated for and unanimously voted the next WI co-chair.

Erickson noted the Mike Cramer (City of Menominee Manager) has accepted a new position outside of Michigan and will no longer be participating in the CAC. The committee is open to new

representation from Menominee in the future, and also interested in representation from the City of Marinette. Uvaas will request Marinette to provide updates on the Menekaunee Harbor project once it is closer to implementation.

2013 Fish and Wildlife Plan – Uvaas

Uvaas presented core pieces of the 2013 Fish and Wildlife Plan in a power point format (see attached). Uvaas and Baker stressed throughout the presentation that only actions contained within the plan will be pursued to remove the “loss of fish and wildlife habitat” and “degradation of fish and wildlife populations” beneficial use impairments. Comments on the plan are being accepted until October 28th. Uvaas and Baker intend to submit the final plan to EPA in December. Committee co-chairs will submit a letter of support for the plan, but identified typos that needed to be resolved in the template provided first. The CAC also requested a map of proposed habitat restoration project be included in the plan, Uvaas will ensure one is developed. Kukuk asked why shallow water areas near US 41 have not been considered as potential habitat restoration sites, citing stormwater runoff concerns. Bougie will follow up with the City of Marinette and WDNR stormwater staff.

Agency Updates, Public Comment, Other News

Schedule for 2013 RAP update

- Nov 14 Final draft sent electronically to CAC and TAC for comment
- Nov 21 Final draft presented during CAC meeting, letter of support requested
- Dec 2 Comments due
- Dec 20 Final draft submitting to EPA

Lower Scott Flowage sediment sampling

Bryant explained that sampling of the Lower Scott Flowage was delayed due to the partial federal government shutdown. The earliest possible date that the contractor and its subcontractors are available is November 5th. Sampling is planned to begin on November 6th and continue through the weekend or until completed.

Island rookery habitat restoration project

Work is scheduled to begin October 21st and completed by the following week. The contractor, NES ecological, will be contacting the island’s owners before accessing private property. Douglas will contact Penny Mullins about the possibility of a press release.

Next CAC Meeting

Schedule for November 21st, UW-Marinette Theatre Conference room (T-139) at 7pm. In addition to Tyco’s monthly report, Uvaas and Baker will present the 2013 RAP Update. Send additional agenda items to Uvaas, he’ll distribute an agenda prior to the meeting.

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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>