

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

February 21, 2013
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. CST

Call in # 888-363-4734 Passcode # 5805677

Geography/Geology Classroom, UW-Marinette YMCA/Max E. Peterson Field House
Corner of University Drive and Shore Drive, Marinette, Wisconsin
([Google Maps link](#))

Desired Outcomes

- CAC members are aware of progress being made at the Ansul and WPSC cleanup sites and have an opportunity for discussion with company representatives
- CAC members understand the results of the Fish Data Roundup and benefits of designating habitat projects required for BUI removal
- CAC members are aware of the benefits of finding a fiscal agent
- Agenda items and a date are selected for the next meeting

Participating: Mark Erickson (Co-Chair), Steve Zander (Co-Chair), Jim Cox (Tyco), Larry Wilson (Tyco), Jenny Short (WPSC), Ben Uvaas (WDNR), Keith West (UW-Marinette), Trygve Rhude (Chappee Rapids Audubon), Sharon Baker (MDEQ), Nancy Douglas (City of Menominee), John Clark (M&M GLSF), Tammie Paoli (WDNR)

Monthly Tyco Sediment Cleanup Update - Jim Cox & Larry Wilson, TYCO

- Wilson will be the new onsite project manager for Tyco and will also be assisting with CAC updates
- Tyco still hopes to complete the project in the original timeframe, by November 2013, while maintaining safety.
 - April 1st is the projected start date for this season's dredge work
- Reinforcement of the existing groundwater barrier wall is about ½ complete
 - This is required prior to removing contaminated sediment close to the wall

Monthly WPSC Sediment Remediation Update- Jenny Short, WPSC

- Sediment removal complete
 - Approximately 14,500 cubic yards of material has been removed from the river, which is about 50% more than was initially anticipated
 - The coffer dam has been removed
- Site Restoration
 - WPSC is rebuilding the City's shoreline with riprap, rebuilding the outfall structure, and installing reactive core matting
 - NestEgg Marine is rebuilding their shoreline with sheet piling
 - The parking lot appears undamaged, but will be repaired as needed
 - Trees and turf grass will be replanted in the spring
- An excavator slid off a scow barge into the river
 - It was retrieved shortly afterward, and the operator was unharmed

- WDNR and the US Coastguard were contacted, and other appropriate actions were taken
- WPSC and EPA are still in the process of determining cap thickness
 - The area proposed for capping contains irretrievable residuals and is considerably smaller than the total project boundary
 - Final depth over capped area is expected to be about six feet

Fisheries Data Roundup Results – Ben Uvaas & Tammie Paoli, WDNR

- See attached PowerPoint presentation

Paoli and Uvaas presented results from the Fisheries Data Roundup project. Paoli explained that electrofishing and shoreline seining data was used to evaluate fish populations. After explaining how recruitment goals were set, future monitoring and habitat improvement recommendations were offered (PowerPoint slides 8-10). Recommendations were broken into two categories, additional data collection and habitat improvement.

Habitat improvement recommendations were met with the following oppositions from some members of the group:

- Suggested habitat improvements are beyond the aim of the original RAP, potentially adding undue cost/time to delist the AOC
- Data does not exist yet to determine if target species are below their population goals, justifying habitat improvement
 - The FDR team cannot quantify how habitat improvements would benefit target species populations

The group was very much opposed to sediment sampling in Rio Vista Slough:

- Concerns about work delaying AOC delisting because of ownership or contaminated sediment issues
- The group stated several times that they are opposed to seeking out “new problems” in the AOC
- Concerns about liability for sediment cleanup and costs were also expressed
- There isn’t community support for work in Rio Vista

However, members agreed that the biological and physical sampling proposed for Rio Vista Slough by the Fish and Wildlife Service should move forward to complete the information already collected in the rest of the AOC.

Others members supported the recommendations:

- Improving habitat now would keep the AOC on track for delisting regardless of what reference site data shows in the future
 - If habitat improvement work is completed and the results of future monitoring data show fish populations already above their recruitment goal the BUI could be removed, OR
 - If habitat improvement work is completed and the results of future monitoring data show fish populations below their recruitment goal, all restoration actions have already been taken, and the BUI could be removed
- It’s not the CAC’s job to decide which sediment questions to investigate further, Rio Vista Slough sediment should be investigated if the agencies have concerns

- The CAC cannot say whether or not there is support for work in Rio Vista Slough, the community in general hasn't been asked and probably isn't aware

Fiscal Agent Search – Mark Erickson, Michigan Co-Chair

Finding a permanent fiscal agent for the CAC would allow the committee to pursue funding opportunities without becoming a certified non-profit themselves. This will be especially helpful for Michigan PAC support and Wisconsin CAC support grants. Erickson has met with the M&M Area Community Foundation's Brian Neumeier, and requested their support in this matter. Neumeier indicated that associated costs include: \$1000 to open the account, \$250 annual administrative fee, and \$25 per check. Baker and Uvaas believe these costs are acceptable for Michigan PAC support and Wisconsin CAC support grants. Neumeier indicated that he would present the proposal to his board at their next meeting for their discussions. Neumeier indicated to Baker that the goals and objectives of the Citizens Advisory Committee seemed a good fit for some of the Foundation's interests.

Agency & SPAC Updates

- Title/Deed Search-Baker
 - Bay Title has expressed their inability to get the parcel boundaries from the City of Menominee which has stifled their progress to date. Likely to complete the portions where parcel description exist soon.
- New Panels for Educational Display
 - Three copies of the revised educational display have been printed. West will store them along with the display board in his classroom until they can be put up in the community. Baker to bring an additional display board when next she travels to the AOC.

Public Comment, Other News & Updates, Identify Future Agenda Items

- Chappée Rapids Audubon Society will be hosting the International Migratory Bird Day Celebration Saturday May 11th, at Red Arrow Park in Marinette. Rhude believes it would be an excellent outreach opportunity, and would like to take the educational display there.
- If the Committee would like to conduct a waterfront cleanup in 2013, a date needs to be selected at least a couple months in advance. The agencies are happy to help with promotion and have leftover supplies from 2011.
- The next meeting will be held March 21, 2013. West has reserved his classroom for the third Thursday of the month through October.
 - WDNR will provide an update on the Menekaunee Harbor project at the next meeting.
- Please send suggested future agenda items to Uvaas, thanks for participating!

Contact information:

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

Steve Zander, Wisconsin CAC Co-Chair
szander@placeperfectrealty.com
 715-923-7776

Ben Uvaas, Wisconsin DNR
Benjamin.uvaas@wisconsin.gov
 920-662-5465

Sharon Baker, Michigan DEQ
BakerS9@michigan.gov
 517-335-3310