

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

April 25, 2013
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. CDT

Participating

Mark Erickson, Lloyd Flanders	Jennifer Short, WPSC
Nancy Douglas, MBDC	John Clark, M&M Great Lakes Sport Fishermen
Trygve Rhude, Chappée Rapids Audubon	Gail Clark, M&M Great Lakes Sport Fishermen
Larry Wilson, Tyco	Cheryl Bougie, WDNR
Keith West, UW-Marinette	Kristin DuFresne, WDNR
Jim Cox, Tyco	Jon Kukuk, Nest Egg Marine
Sharon Baker, MDEQ	Mike Bryant, GLNPO
Ben Uvaas, WDNR	

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
- Meeting participants are aware of the work being planned for Menekaunee Harbor and their general role in restoration plan development
- CAC members understand the agencies future intentions regarding Rio Vista Slough and what they mean for BUI removal

AGENDA

Monthly TYCO Sediment Remediation Update – Jim Cox & Larry Wilson, TYCO

Cox and Wilson provided an updated version of the cleanup fact sheet for 2013 to the CAC. Tyco is continuing to work with EPA and WDNR to discuss the treatability study results, hazardous waste variance, and 2013 work plan. The target start date to begin 2013 dredging is May 8th. Work will begin near the barrier wall to facilitate offloading the dredge scows. Approximately 244,000 cubic yards of sediment are expected to be removed in 2013. To accomplish this task, Tyco has proposed modifying operations and has been mobilizing the site and equipment in the following ways:

- A single gravity-closing mechanical dredge will be replaced with two hydraulically-closing dredges, and four additional scow barges will be added, bringing the total to six. Dredging will take place as much as 24/6.
- An onsite lab is being brought in to evaluate the arsenic concentration on each individual scow barge to optimize arsenic treatability.
- A dry ferric chemical will be used to stabilize arsenic for soft sediments, instead of the liquid ferric used in 2012. While this chemical is more difficult to acquire, it will not add to the moisture content of soft sediment, a disposal concern. A liquid ferric and Portland cement treatment of Semi-Consolidated Materials will be used that is similar to the treatment method utilized last year.
- Truck traffic will increase from last year to about 200 truck load per day to landfill. Trucking will take place 6am-11pm Monday-Saturday following the same trucking route as last year.
- The site layout has also been changed to accommodate large sediment storage bins and an additional truck scale and wash station.
- EPA/DNR Site Visits scheduled in May and continue an excellent partnership effort to complete the effort this year

Deleted: dredges

Monthly WPSC Sediment Remediation Update – Jennifer Short, WPSC

Over 15,000 cubic yards of material was removed as part of this project. A couple hundred cubic yards of material is being removed near the Boom Landing boat launch for navigability. The dredging portion of this project is essentially complete.

- Kukuk commented that overall navigation depths have improved in the area
- City and WPSC inspected parking lot and agreed that replacement is not needed. WPSC will topcoat parking lot.
- The CAC voted unanimously to send a “thank you” style letter to WPSC for completing the cleanup. Douglas will draft the letter for Erickson and Zander’s signature.

Menekaunee Harbor Update – Cheryl Bougie, WDNR

The City of Marinette and Wisconsin DNR have entered into a cost share agreement to restore Menekaunee Harbor. Restoration will include replacement of failing seawalls, removal of contaminated and uncontaminated sediment, and fisheries habitat restoration. Planning stages are taking place in 2013. The plans will likely be implemented in 2014 with significant financial assistance from the EPA through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The total project is expected to cost around \$5.6M although firm costs will not be available until after restoration designs are complete. Completion of the project will positively impact the removal of four of the five remaining BUIs in the AOC by: removing 67,000yd³ of contaminated and uncontaminated sediment, restoring the wetland habitat, and softening shorelines. The City also anticipates the restoration of Menekaunee Harbor to benefit tourism, business, and recreational opportunities.

- Throughout 2013 the CAC along with other stakeholders will be approached to provide feedback on the restoration as designs are developed.
- For questions about the project, Bougie can be reach at (920) 662-5441 and by e-mail at Cheryl.Bougie@wisconsin.gov

Rio Vista Slough: ownership, sediment, habitat, and biological assessments – Baker & Uvaas

Ownership - Bay Title is still working on the parcel ownership report that will hopefully identify ownership of the unknown parcel.

Habitat - Agencies will not require Rio Vista Slough as part of the list habitat projects needed to delist the fish and wildlife population and habitat BUIs.

- The fisheries biologists did recommend a project here, and considered it potentially important habitat for spotted musky, perch, panfish, and bass for spawning and juvenile rearing
- The CAC generally supported the idea of a habitat restoration project in the Slough, but did not feel it should be required to remove any BUI.
 - Other non-profit or governmental groups are welcome to apply for funding to restore the Slough, although these funding sources are generally more competitive than those specifically targeting AOCs.
- FWS may choose not to pursue biological assessments if the Slough will not be a habitat project for BUI removal

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Sediment – Michigan DEQ feels that additional screening level sampling must be conducted in Rio Vista Slough prior to removing the degradation of benthos and restrictions on dredging BUIs. Wisconsin DNR supports MDEQ’s position regarding sediment sampling in the Slough. Surficial sampling conducted by Whitewater Associates in 1996 indicated elevated levels of metals, but did not detect elevated levels of PCBs, PAHs, or Dioxins. Additional sampling would be used to determine if

the Slough is or is not a source of contamination impacting the degradation of benthos or restrictions on dredging BUI.

- EPA is offering to fund sample analysis in 2013, but cannot collect sediment samples
- MDEQ sediment staff will pursue sample collection, but cannot say at this time if samples could be collected in 2013 or not depending on their existing workload.
- Some CAC members expressed opposition to sampling, but understood that they cannot tell the states where to sample sediment
- A large part of the river has been sampled in the past to identify the extent of the contamination from the coal tars and arsenic
- The SPMD study showed some low level contamination in water:
 - Downstream from the WPSC site, which has recently been addressed
 - from above the Menominee Dam
 - GLNPO will characterize Lower Scott Flowage sediment 2013 or 2014

Agency Updates

- Mike Bryant
 - The sampling in the Lower Scott Flowage on hold due to sequestration
 - Mike is awaiting management go ahead to engage their contractor
 - Could potentially move this project until next year
- Fisheries work – Uvaas, WDNR, Baker, MDEQ
 - Spring work on track
 - Fall reference site work on track
 - Peshtigo by WDNR
 - Escanaba by MDNR
- SPAC meeting next Tuesday/Wednesday to meet with legislators
 - No one indicated that they were planning to attend

Public Comment, Other News

- M&M Community Foundation Fiscal Agent Update – Erickson, Douglas
 - Mark is checking on this
- Lake Michigan Stakeholders Meeting May 22, 9am-3pm, UW-Marinette
- Chappée Rapids IMBD community event May 11, 8am-noon, Red Arrow Park

Identify Future Agenda Items & Meeting Date

- Next meeting currently scheduled for May 16, 2013
 - We will keep similar format
 - Ben and Sharon can develop agendas easily, and will run by Mark and Steve
 - If you have a topic please forward to Ben and Sharon

Contact information

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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>