

**Lower Menominee River Area of Concern
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2014 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. CST**

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

ATTENDEES

Trygve Rhude, Steve Zander, Gail Clark, John Clark, Jon Kukuk, Mark Erickson, Keith West, Larry Wilson-TYCO, Heather Williams EPA GLNPO, Mike Bryant EPA GLNPO, Cheryl Bougie-WDNR, Ben Uvaas-WDNR, Vic Pappas-WDNR Sharon Baker-MDEQ

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Meeting attendees are kept up-to-date with the current status of the Betterment Action and Menekaunee Harbor projects, they have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss each project
- Understanding of the current status of the fish passage projects
- Further develop for 2014 CAC based public outreach

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

Monthly GLLA Betterment Project Update – All listed chipped in with project information: Jim Cox, Larry Wilson (Tyco), and Mike Bryant (Heather Williams) (U.S.EPA), Cheryl Bougie (WDNR)

- Currently finishing last year's work
- Contract on final desk at EPA (Dr. Headman) with Discussions in Chicago on Monday
 - Statement of Work drafted
 - Plan to begin removal work this year, hopefully beginning in August with completion by 12/30/14. If not this year then next.
 - Habitat work in 2015
 - A sand cover (not a cap) will be placed in small areas within the turning basin over the exposed glacial till areas still containing arsenic. Project will maintain required navigation channel depths.
 - Needs a public meeting.
 - Discussion ensued to provide community to have a joint open house for all projects planned this summer (see below)
- **TYCO to hold publicity event**
 - **Presenting Grand Haven Model to City of Marinette**
 - Could bring rudder

Public Open House-June 26th

- Providing information planned for the Menominee River-Summer 2014: timing, venue, outreach to stakeholders (ads in paper, radio-local and WPR),
 - Larry, Cheryl, and Sharon to work on press release/advertisement for open house
 - Mark will check on local radio interview
 - Keith to reserve room for **June 26th** at UW Marinette Campus
 - **Keith needs to know table space needed for with displays for room setup**
 - **Keith needs to know electrical needs for each display**
 - Keith will set up for power point
 - Venue will need a seating area
- Run open house like a regular CAC meeting.

- Highlights CAC activities
- Begin with introductions and basic historical presentation by CAC Chairs
- **Individuals presenters are asked to:**
 - **prepare short presentation of the: who, what, where, when, why (5 min. each) and provide to Cheryl, Sharon, Keith.** This will allow time for individual discussions at display tables after meeting.
 - **Presenters will provide short written project summary statements for CAC Meeting Minutes and provide to Cheryl and Sharon**
 - **Presenters to provide displays for open house**
- Presentations at meeting to include: Menekaunee Harbor, GLLA Betterment, fish passage
- **Supplemental displays and project descriptions set up around room related to Menominee AOC CAC, AOC Projects, or AOC Research**

Monthly Menekaunee Harbor Update – Cheryl Bougie (WDNR) See Attachment B-Menekaunee Harbor

- Cheryl to forward to group news release from April 22nd through Marinette, Menekaunee Harbor power point and map (see attachment B).
- Request for Qualification was posted to solicit project oversight consultant for dredging & ecological restoration activities.
- Expect dredging to begin mid-July or early August (permit dependent) with completion in December 2014
- Ecological restoration in 2015

Fish Passage Update-provided by Nick Utrup-**See Attachment A**

- FWS Summary read by Sharon
- Someone pointed out parking issues at Park Mill Dams Public Access area

Army Corps of Engineers Navigational Dredging

- Expect project to begin in September 2014 with open water disposal in Lake Michigan
 - Cheryl provided an ACOE map of the proposed dredge areas **See Attachment B** (last slide in presentation) – ACOE 2014 Menominee River Navigation Dredging
 - 20,000 cubic yards of mostly spot dredging with optional dredging to occur near Marinette Marine (MM)
 - Cheryl supplied ACOE with list of impacted users/partners of the river for coordination.

MM proposes to restrict navigational channel access due to Homeland Security Adm. Issues

- Protection barrier across ~ 90 ft. of river
 - blocking approximately half of navigation channel
 - consisting of floating barriers & hanging nets
 - anchorments placed in 2013
 - potential to restrict navigational access

2014 CAC Led Community Outreach

- Nestegg Marine Open House report out– Jon Kukuk
 - ~75 people through
 - Cold weather dampened attendance
 - **Keith to pick up display from Jon for storage**
- Review Event Table (Mark Erickson or Keith West)
 - Ben to add June 26th event
 - Sharon out the Eat Safe Fish and Prepare Safe Fish brochures

- Cheryl requested additional copies of brochures

Follow up on Habitat Protection

- ACOE is helping to provide cost estimates for Island Rookery Habitat Enhancement Project using guidance provided by TAC
- Ben - Zoning protections might be helpful for Boom, South Shore of South Channel, and Menekaunee Harbor
 - Send Marinette letters from CAC asking to maintain or enhance current zoning protections to Mayor, City, Planning Commission, and City Engineer (Brian Miller)
 - Ask to be notified of proposed zoning changes impacting these areas
 - Discuss other site protections at future meeting

Agency Updates

- SPAC Meeting **July 15** in Ishpeming, Michigan recognizing the Deer Lake AOC Delisting. Agenda topics are still under consideration. Watch for notes from Matt Doss with Great Lakes Commission for a participation and topic(s) poll.

Other News

- Marinette & Menominee Great Lakes Sports Fishermen-Gail & John
 - Released ~ 14,000 Chinooks they raised using net-penning on April 26th
 - They have a five year permit to continue raising and releasing fish hoping they will return to enhance the fishery
 - Last done ten years ago then restricted due to concerns related to the fish disease-VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia)
 - Salmon fry provided by WDNR
 - Nestegg Marine provides rearing area and easy access to pens
 - Area with high oxygen levels

Public Comment

- Jon Kukuk Nestegg Marine explained his concerns about the sand ridge remaining behind after Wisconsin Public Service Corporation's contaminated sediment removal in 2013.
 - The ridge poses a navigational hazard because it is shallow and not marked in any way
 - Would like to create habitat in the middle portion of the ridge
 - Jon Kukuk and Brian Miller trying to get WPSC to remove ridge
 - Steve Z recommended marking the ridge with hazard buoys
 - Cheryl provided a list of the things which they needed to do
 - Clarification a ridge was not left behind, the sediment elevations were the same across this area, however, the WPS contaminated sediment removal action created improved navigation along the area near Boom Landing.
 - WPSC removed sediments identified as contaminated by EPA & WDNR
 - Ridge could be removed without additional sampling – the existing WPS data may be used.
 - Look to recreational funding sources
 - Try to coordinate dredging efforts with Menekaunee, where possible, coordinate permits, disposal options etc.
 - The GLRI money from Menekaunee Harbor Restoration Project may not be used for this navigation project.
 - Interested in hearing additional ideas on habitat restoration, however, this area was not identified in the AOC Fish & Wildlife Population & Habitat Restoration and Management Plan.

A dredge management plan may be necessary for sediment removal areas that have remaining contaminants containing concentrations above the action levels.

Meeting Date

- Next meeting proposed: June 26, 2014 Open House

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A

Menominee River Fish Passage Update for Park Mill and Menominee Dams

Prepared by Nick Utrup on 5-2-14

Please note: timelines are best estimates and subject to change

Phase I – Downstream Passage at Park Mill Dam (Fish Bypass)

- Construction designs are 100% and have been approved by FERC
 - Construction is now permitted to begin
- North American Hydro is currently selecting a bidder for the construction
- Construction is expected to begin in June and be completed by September of this year
- Pre-construction activities have already begun
- Power canal will be drawn down

Phase II – Upstream Passage at Menominee Dam (Fish Lift)

- Construction designs are 100% and have been approved by FERC
 - Construction is now permitted to begin
- North American Hydro is currently selecting a bidder for the construction
- Construction is expected to begin in June and be completed by November of this year
- Pre-construction activities have already begun

Phase III – Downstream Passage at Menominee Dam (Fish Bypass and trashrack replacement)

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is finishing the feasibility study
 - Final project agreement expected by the end of this year
- Final design and construction bidding expected in 2015
 - It is unknown whether construction would begin in late 2015 or early 2016
- Trashrack replacement still unfunded
 - North American Hydro funded a feasibility study to determine what can be done to improve the trashracks and what the potential cost may be
 - Construction timeframe unknown at this point

Phase IV – Upstream transport of lake sturgeon (Transport Trailer)

- The Implementation Team is working on the specs for the trailer, so we can determine how the trailer should be built and how much it may cost
- Construction of the trailer is only partially funded
 - North American Hydro has agreed to provide up to \$12,000 for the design and construction of the trailer
- Trailer is needed by next spring (2015), but construction timeframe is currently unknown

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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>