

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

May 16, 2013

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. CDT

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

[\(Google Maps link\)](#)

Participating

Mark Erickson (Co-Chair), Steve Zander (Co-Chair), Jim Cox (Tyco), Larry Wilson (Tyco), Ben Uvaas (WDNR), Keith West (UW-Marinette), Mike Crammer (City of Menominee), Sharon Baker (MDEQ), Nancy Douglas (City of Menominee), Mike Bryant (EPA), Mike Mikulka (EPA), Jon Kukuk (NestEgg Marine), Gail Clark (MMGLSF), John Clark (MMGLSF)

Monthly Tyco Sediment Remediation Update – Jim Cox & Larry Wilson

Dredging began May 1, and continues to date. Approximately 1,600 cubic yards of material is being removed each day. Dredging operations are now running 24 hours a day. A total of ~8,000 cubic yards of material has been dredged with 5,000 treated. Dredging equipment is still coming online. The equipment changes from 2012 to 2013 which include hydraulically closing dredge buckets and larger pug mills have been working out very well so far. Wilson confirmed that thus far there have not been issues with sediment treatment or disposal, and that the Coastguard is aware of the activity. Kukuk mentioned that a representative from Severson (the project dredging contractor) inquired about lighted buoys recently. Wilson was not aware of the need for lighted buoys, but will check with Severson.

Dredging is currently removing semi-consolidated material (deeper material), not soft sediment. Flooding on the Mississippi River has delayed the full shipment of dry ferric sulfate chemical used for treating the sediment. However some of the treatment chemical has been stockpiled for use.

The goal is to move ~200 trucks of materials to the waste disposal facility per day with a 1 hour turnaround time for transportation. CAC members cautioned that there will likely be traffic issues once summer vacationers hit the town.

Lastly, Wilson thanked the regulatory agencies (EPA, WDNR) involved for their efficient permit application review which has contributed to the May 1 start date.

Monthly WPSC Sediment Remediation Update

Representatives from WPS were not available for the meeting. After completion of the projects dredging phase, a shallow ridge remained near the project area. Kukuk and the Marinette City Engineer are investigating options to improve navigation depths to eliminate navigation hazards, including making part of it into a fish and wildlife habitat. Kukuk indicated that a seawall failed near Nest Egg and he is discussing the issue with WPSC.

Results of recent TAC work – Uvaas, WDNR

Uvaas described the need for developing a more complete list of the activities necessary to remove the fish and wildlife BUIs. The TAC is currently working to do this through evaluating what activities are required to meet each objective of the *2011 Fish and Wildlife Plan*. As the TAC works to identify these actions throughout the summer, Uvaas will report to the CAC and bring their feedback to the TAC. Actions discussed by the TAC to meet bird objectives include:

Objective 1: Maintain or enhance habitat conducive to colonial waterbird rookery activity at known or prospective rookeries

- Continue vegetation management of Seagull Bar State Natural Area
- Remove invasive plant species from Blueberry, Boom, and Strawberry Islands and provide habitat restoration (re-vegetation and/or artificial nesting platforms) as needed.

Objective 2: Monitor the rookery activity of known or prospective rookeries

- Robust monitoring of habitat restoration activities on restored islands
- Continued monitoring for piping plover nesting on Seagull Bar by USFWS
- Qualitative monitoring of bird populations utilizing an existing dataset or informal surveys

Kukuk indicated that there were more birds on Strawberry Island than he has ever seen before.

CAC Fiscal Agent Update – Baker, MDEQ

Baker is pursuing the Great Lakes Commission as a fiscal agent for the island restoration proposal this year. At this point we have not received a 100% commitment from the M&M Community foundation, and the Great Lakes Commission would also cost considerably less than setting up an account with M&M. Baker believes she will hear back from the Commission in approximately two weeks and will relay the response when received.

FAQ Sheets

Baker passed along the newly revised Michigan AOC Frequently Asked Questions sheet and indicated that Michigan was working on FAQ sheets for each AOC.

Menominee River AOC Video – Uvaas, WDNR

To improve the visibility of the good work being completed in AOCs, WDNR is producing short videos for each WI AOC. Menominee is the last AOC to have a video made. The video will try to capture what makes the Menominee AOC special and highlight ongoing restoration work.

Follow this link for example videos: [WDNR Great Lakes Videos](#)

- CAC members suggested storyboarding the video to help guide filming
- Uvaas will follow up with the CAC on possible interviewees, topics, and filming locations
- Clark's suggested interviewing fishermen in a boat.

Public Comment, Other News

- Chappee Rapids IMBD community event
 - Erickson attended the event and noted that for the weather it was well attended by local residents
- Menominee Waterfront Festival, August 1-4
 - CAC members would like the educational display to be present at the festival
 - Douglas noted that Saturday has the highest attendance

Identify Future Agenda Items & Meeting Date

- Please hold June 27th for the next CAC meeting
 - Send proposed agenda items to Uvaas or Baker

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>