

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

August 21, 2014
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. CST

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

DESIRED OUTCOMES

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

ATTENDEES

Cheryl Bougie (WDNR), Donna Buechler (Menominee Conservation District), Gail Clark (M&M Great Lakes Sport Fisherman), John Clark (M&M Great Lakes Sport Fisherman), Jim Cox (Tyco), Nancy Douglas (Menominee Business Development Corp.), Mark Erickson (Co-Chair), Jon Kukuk (Nestegg Marine), Laurel Last (WDNR), Jim Rettke, Keith West (Co-Chair), Larry Wilson (Tyco)

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

- Introduce Laurel Last, new WDNR AOC Coordinator

Betterment Action Update – Jim Cox and Larry Wilson (Tyco)

- Contract proposals are under government review
- If Severson gets contract, believe they can finish dredging this year
- If another company, will take longer (2015)
- Extended 6th St. Slip agreement through end of 2015
- City of Grand Haven replica unveiling event last month
- Lake Michigan Champions of Conservation Award

Menekaunee Harbor Update – Cheryl Bougie (WDNR)

- Severson Environmental Services Inc awarded contract; Robert E. Lee oversight
- Dredging started today—working in SE quadrant
- Wastewater treatment up and running and will discharge to the Marinette WWTP
- Severson intends to complete dredging and seawall work this fall, working 24-7 if necessary (trucking will occur during city approved hours)
- Dredged sediment will go to 3 locations:
 - Contaminated—WM Landfill Menominee MI
 - Less contaminated—Lot 24 City-owned
 - Uncontaminated—beneficially reused for habitat restoration area
- 2015 implement habitat restoration—plan currently under review
- BUIs to be addressed as part of the Menekaunee Harbor Project
 - Restrictions on Dredging
 - Degradation of Benthos
 - Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations
 - Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Lower Menominee River Fish Passage Update – submitted by Nick Utrup (USFWS)

- Phase I (downstream passage at Park Mill Dam) underway and completed 2014
- Phase II (upstream passage—fish lift—at Menominee Dam) underway and completed 2014
- Phase III (downstream passage at Menominee Dam) will be completed by Sept. 2016
- Phase IV (upstream transport of lake sturgeon) should be completed by spring 2015
- See handout for more details and photos

South Channel Fish Passage and Restoration Update and discussion – Laurel Last (WDNR)

- Fish passage under Ogden Street Bridge under discussion—would not happen until after Tyco sediment (GLLA betterment) project is complete
- ACOE to model current condition and possible future conditions for scour, fish passage
- Steve Choy (USFWS) has proposal from contractor for habitat design and they are comfortable with cost and scope of design; hope to have them on board by end of month
- Final product will be implementable design (i.e., designs that are ready for bid and construction)
- This design should be considered separate from the fish passage effort, but will complement fish passage and Menekaunee Harbor restoration project
- Focus will be on removal of non-native vegetation, planting of native vegetation, and fish habitat such as woody debris
- Aim to be able to implement late next year but might have to wait until 2016 depending on timing of everything
- South Channel “habitat restoration and protection project” is listed in the Actions table in the 2013 Fish & Wildlife plan
- CAC input on scope of project—What is needed in South Channel area for BUI removal?
- General response: Current scope is fine, as long as complete by 2016
- Laurel confirmed plan to delist AOC in 2016
- Keith—concerned about preservation of South Channel area after restoration—*see more on this in “Identify Future Agenda Items” section below*

Island Rookery Habitat Enhancement Project Update – Laurel Last (WDNR)

- ACOE will pay to continue invasives control work on Lower Menominee islands (Little and Big Blueberry, Boom, and Strawberry)
- Contractors (Ecology and Environment, Inc.) conducted site visit on August 18th to evaluate current conditions and determine habitat restoration possibilities
- They will report back to ACOE with their findings and thoughts
- Funding for island work likely available by end of year

2014 CAC Led Community Outreach – Laurel Last and others

- Menekaunee Harbor kiosk—where to move it and what to put on it
 - Kiosk should be moved where it is accessible during dredging
 - By the road would be good, so there is foot traffic nearby
 - Post updates on Menekaunee Harbor project
 - **Laurel and Cheryl will work on content and getting the kiosk moved**
- AOC video project
 - Two trips planned, first one September 8-9, to gather video and interviews
 - 3 videos in the making: Menekaunee Harbor, Tyco site, fish passage
 - Plan to finish the Tyco video in fall 2014 or spring 2015
 - Laurel will be contacting the potential interviewees
 - Interviewees will be provided with interview questions/talking points so they know what to expect

- Review AOC community outreach event table
 - Group made edits and additions to 2014 event table
 - Did not do Menominee Waterfront Festival
 - Waterfront cleanup—maybe join someone else’s cleanup in 2015
 - Add Lake Michigan Day (Keith)
 - Donna—Menominee Conservation District planning banquet in October or November
 - Laurel—Wendel Johnson asked her to present at Chappee Rapids Audubon Society November 20th
 - **Keith volunteered to take over the event table**
 - **Laurel will update event table spreadsheet and send file to Keith**
 - **CAC members should contact Keith about outreach events and for AOC display**

Public Comment and Other News

- Mark—Michigan Phragmites control work going on next couple of weeks
 - Includes part of AOC (shoreline)
 - Performed by Clean Kill company
 - Second round
- Laurel—Trygve said to mention: Marinette marine had a peregrine falcon nest on one of their buildings this summer, and are looking for help on building a nest box for next year

Identify Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date

- Next meeting proposed for September 18, 2014—keep this date
- Identify Agenda Topics
 - Habitat protection
 - Letter to Marinette City Council in support of zoning ordinances as a means to protect natural areas (see March and April CAC meeting minutes)
 - Concerns about City of Marinette long-term plan for Menekaunee Harbor and South Channel area
 - Keith—Maybe have Brian Miller come to CAC meeting and talk about city plans
 - Others agreed—Need to look at plans first to see what areas need protected
 - Mark—Need to encourage municipalities to keep natural areas/corridors and newly restored habitat areas protected via planning and zoning
 - **Cheryl will contact Brian to see if he or someone else from City can come talk to CAC about their plans**
 - Tyco Betterment Action update
 - CAC members want to know who gets contract and when work starts (before next meeting if possible)
 - **Jim or Larry will send notice—can send to Laurel and she’ll forward to CAC**
 - Delisting discussion
 - Keith—SPAC talked about public announcement of AOC delisting—Should we start thinking about this?
 - Nancy—Start planning for delisting celebration?
 - Laurel—Confirmed goal of delisting in 2016
 - Group discussion of need for schedule/checklist of remaining activities
 - **Laurel will put together a list of actions needed for BUI removal and schedule**

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>

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>