

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

September 18, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. CST

Minutes prepared by Laurel Last

***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 and Menekaunee Harbor projects and they have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss each one
- CAC members gain a better understanding of how City of Marinette planning and zoning ordinances influence the protection of natural areas in the AOC
- CAC members review and discuss actions needed and schedule for BUI removal
- Understand the current status of the fish passage and island rookery habitat projects
- Further develop plans for 2014 CAC based public outreach

ATTENDEES

Gail Clark (M&M Great Lakes Sport Fisherman), John Clark (M&M Great Lakes Sport Fisherman), Jim Cox (Tyco), Mark Erickson (Co-Chair), Jon Kukuk (Nestegg Marine), Laurel Last (WDNR), Brian Miller (City of Marinette), Trygve Rhude (Chappee Rapids Audubon Society), Jon Sbar (City of Marinette), Keith West (Co-Chair), Larry Wilson (Tyco)

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

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

- Contract awarded to EQM with Severson Environmental Services, Inc. (SES) sub
- Dredging started September 11th
- 12-hour days, 6 days/week
- Ramping up, hope to finish dredging late October
- Construction site restoration and habitat restoration next year
- Dredging from shore in South Channel and from river in turning basin
- This effort different from last year—dredging pockets, low production, EPA GLNPO lead
- CH2M-Hill sampling water quality, bathymetric surveyors
- 3 turbidity curtains to limit sediment movement
- 12” cover will be placed over glacial till—enhanced sediment, not a cap
- Discussion about final depths
- City of Grand Haven rudder
 - MJB Construction made stand for it
 - Museum is deciding where to put it

Menekaunee Harbor Update – Laurel Last (WDNR)

- Laurel shared update from Cheryl Bougie (WDNR)
- Project is going well—see Menekaunee Harbor Update for more details

City planning, zoning, and habitat protection – Brian Miller and Jon Sbar (City of Marinette)

- Shared City zoning map and map from City 2020 Comprehensive Plan

- Handed out excerpts from City Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan
- Discussed four “lines of defense” for habitat protection
 1. Wetlands protected by WDNR regulations
 2. City Zoning—P-1 Park District and C-1 Conservancy District limit uses
 3. Waterfront Overlay Zoning Districts limit uses
 4. City Comprehensive Plan—vision for next 20 years (2004-2024)
- 2010 law—To amend zoning, must be consistent with Comprehensive Plan
- City Council can amend Comprehensive Plan, however
- Never 100% guaranteed protection; need to trust elected officials
- They know that people want to protect these areas
- Should the CAC write letter to the city in support of protection?
 - Couldn't hurt to go on record
 - Group agrees it would be good idea
 - Address letter to zoning commission
 - Discuss at next CAC meeting (see “Identify Future Agenda Items” below)
- Question—Can road along South Channel for Tyco dredging project be turned into trail?
 - No—Permit says it must come out after completion of project
 - Area will return to wetland
 - Could put in elevated boardwalk, but that's expensive
 - Tyco plans to donate gravel to City
- Question—What are plans for Jozaitis property?
 - City is in process of purchasing
 - Plan to tear down building, put in pavilion, fishing piers
 - Future work is not yet funded—will apply for grants
 - Group interested in Menekaunee Harbor concept plan/rendering—**Laurel will send out to CAC**

Lower Menominee River Fish Passage Update – Laurel Last (WDNR)

- Phase I – Downstream Passage at Park Mill Dam (Fish Bypass)
 - Construction began in June and is currently underway
 - Construction is expected to be **completed by October** of this year
- Phase II – Upstream Passage at Menominee Dam (Fish Lift)
 - Construction began in June and is currently underway
 - Most exterior construction completed this year and interior work over winter
 - Construction is expected to be **completed by April** of next year
- Phase III – Downstream Passage at Menominee Dam (Fish Bypass and trashrack replacement)
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is finishing the feasibility study
 - \$3 million in funding is being provided by a GLRI grant through USFWS
 - Still need to develop construction plans and negotiate construction details with Eagle Creek
 - Construction must be **completed by September of 2016**
- 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 will be funded by Eagle Creek Renewable Energy and should be **completed by spring 2015**
- Transporting 100-200 sturgeon per year at first
- 2-year study starting this fall to track sturgeon
 - Capture and place transmitters in fish
 - Results will show when is the best time to pass sturgeon upstream

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

- ACOE hopes to secure funding through their Aquatic Plant Control authority for IS management 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
- ENE submitted proposal to ACOE September 16th
- 2 ½ year project, to end in 2016
- Focus on restoring native plant communities and supporting colonial nesting bird communities
- Funding likely available by end of year
- If early enough, first round of IS treatments on buckthorn could occur this fall or winter
- Update from Derek Strohl, BLM
 - Plans to plant trees (seedlings 1-3 years old) on Strawberry Island next spring
 - density of about 800 trees per acre
 - broad mix of species to ensure success of canopy development, to include basswood, red maple, oaks, and white pine
 - possibly willow cuttings at the water line for quick canopy development; he may be able to plant these in October
 - most intensive planting in open areas, least under existing mature trees
 - Hopes to be able to burn brush piles this fall

AOC planning—Actions needed and develop a schedule to track activities needed for BUI removals – Laurel Last (WDNR)

- Laurel combined information from 2013 Fish & Wildlife Plan and RAP Update to track actions needed for BUI removal
- Shared first draft of BUI summary (see handout) with group
- Note that this summary draft, open for discussion, and completion dates are estimates
- Note that actions completed date does not equal BUI removal date
- Actual BUI removal and AOC delisting will take some additional time
- Group—Summary is useful for seeing big picture, what's left to do
- Keith—Would like more information on the open-ended actions
- What are the possible scenarios? E.g., what happens if survey results show fish are not meeting recruitment objectives?
- **Laurel will work with Sharon, TAC, and others to fill in these gaps**

2014 CAC Led Community Outreach – Laurel Last and others

- AOC video project
 - Film crew was up September 9th and 10th
 - Filming and interviews at Menekaunee Harbor—me, Keith, Brian Miller
 - Filming and interviews at Menominee Dam (fish passage)—Rory Alsberg and Mike Donofrio
 - Planning another trip this fall—Tyco project plus other interviewees we missed
 - Larry—Would like interview questions/talking points ahead of time so public affairs folks can approve them
 - **Laurel will make sure Larry gets the questions/talking points in plenty of time before his interview**
- Menekaunee Harbor kiosk
 - Discussed moving and updating the kiosk
 - Is it worth it to move the kiosk for only 2 months? Answer—No

- Should we update the sign now, or wait until next year? Answer—Wait
- All AOC signs need updating—replace Ben's info with Laurel's and update Sharon's phone number
- **Laurel will look into printing labels to update contact info on AOC signs**
- Review outreach event table—no new events to add
- AOC outreach materials—**Keith will send list to Laurel so she can update**
- Keith—AOC travelling display is outdated
 - Laurel—There should be CAC funds available for that
 - Group—Let's plan to have new display ready by March

Public Comment and Other News

- Trygve—Marinette Marine had a peregrine falcon nest on one of their buildings this summer, and are looking to build a nest box for next year

Identify Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date

- Next meeting proposed for October 16, 2014—keep this date
- Identify Agenda Topics
 - CAC letter to Marinette City Council supporting zoning ordinances as a means to protect natural areas
 - AOC planning and BUI summary

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Keith West, Wisconsin CAC Co-Chair
Keith.West@uwc.edu
 715-735-4300 x4352

Laurel Last, Wisconsin DNR
Laurel.last@wisconsin.gov
 920-662-5103

Sharon Baker, Michigan DEQ
BakerS9@michigan.gov
 517-284-5044

Michael Bryant, EPA Area of Concern Task Force Leader
Bryant.Michael@epa.gov
 312-886-5266

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>