

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern

April 15, 2013, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District Training Room, 2231 N. Quincy Street, Green Bay

Attendance

Mike Bryant via phone, Nic Sparacio, Janet Smith, Jim Jolly, Laurel Last, Dotty Juengst, Annette Pelegrin, Bill Hafs, Jeff Mazanec, Julia Noordyk

Welcome and Introductions

Our meeting kicked off with an introduction of a new prospective member from Sea Grant, Julia Noordyk. AOC GLNPO Task Force Leader for Green Bay & Fox River and Menominee AOCs Mike Bryant joined us via speaker phone.

CAC Membership Changes

Jim Jolly has joined the group, and he now represents Brown County. Bill Hafs will remain a member, but he now represents Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District (New Water). It was mentioned that the City of Ashwaubenon has a new planner who should be contacted to join the CAC to fill that vacancy.

WDNR AOC monitoring and support grant updates

- The Angler Survey is in progress. The main purpose is to get a handle on the problem of fish flavor and odor within the boundaries of the AOC. Some aesthetics questions and consumption advisory questions were added. The creel clerk distributes the survey while performing the regular creel surveys. They might also be distributed at events. Laurel is already getting surveys back. The survey does not say AOC because it could confuse or bias people. We just want to know the opinion and not use survey to educate. CAC member Jim Jolly offered his support and could hand out surveys to members of an organization in which he is affiliated—Great Lakes Sport Fishermen-Green Bay Chapter.
- Cat Island Chain monitoring project: a UW-Green Bay graduate student, Tim Flood, will sample plants north and south of the Cat Island Chain, under the direction of Advisor Prof. Pat Robinson. Is the wave barrier creating a better habitat? Project will include an aquatic plant survey and tests for chlorophyll and suspended solids and will occur this year from June-August.
- Trapper survey: Mail surveys will be conducted in 2014 by DNR. Surveys will ask trappers about furbearer presence in AOC.
- Aesthetics monitoring is ongoing; the pilot started in 2011, the project was expanded in 2012, and monitoring started up again in April 2013. Laurel has 13 volunteers signed up so far this season and it's going really well. DNR is paying an LTE to enter data and that person works to improve the program. On March 26 Laurel held volunteer training and tomorrow there is another training session.
- Fox River clean-up: The FWWA is doing a clean-up upstream this year. They're getting funding to do another cleanup within the AOC next year (April 26th).
- Barkhausen kayak events are in the planning stages. CAC Member Jeff Mazanec noted that there are a few public paddles through NEW Paddlers, check the website at www.wisconsinpaddlers.org. On Sat. August 17th there will be paddler outing at the Tall Ships Festival in Green Bay.

Outreach and Events

- Potential Outreach Opportunities
- Tall Ships Festival—Sea Grant will be there
- Neville Public Museum July 4th event—considering an AOC/Great Lakes booth
- FWWA/NEWSC Events—partner with them
- Activities: The CAC had a general discussion about possible activities for events. The DNR fish tank is not available. The Office of the Great Lakes has displays. We are looking for interactive displays, flip-up questions, groundwater sand tank model, Enviroscape, pins where they live on a map, etc. Education and seminars are available from Mike Bryant. We could give out tickets at the food booth to go visit the AOC booth.

Other upcoming events

- The Fox River clean-up is scheduled for April 28 from 1-4 pm starting at the Jack Day Environmental Center. Data from the aesthetic monitoring project was used to target cleanup areas.
- LFRWMP Watershed Symposium April 23 at UW-Green Bay
- Baird Creek Annual Banquet April 29
- Waters of Wisconsin forum May 7 at UW-Green Bay
- League of Women Voters Climate Crisis and Health May 13 at Clarion Hotel
- Hypoxia Workshop next Friday
- Lake Michigan stakeholders Spring Meeting at UW-Marinette May 22
- Student video project

Future project updates

- CAC Member Nic Sparacio spoke about projects that the City of Green Bay is partners on: Sanitary surveys and restoration of Bay Beach. This project is in partnership with Bay Lakes Regional Planning and UW-Oshkosh. It looks at bacteria and asks the question “What will it take to reopen Bay Beach as a swimming beach?” It’s in the initial stages—sampling started last year. Angela Pierce of Bay Lakes Regional Planning could come and speak about it. This project will give us data about the problems and an action plan for solving them.
- Another project in the formative stages looks at climate change impacts on floodplains. It’s a Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership project dealing with urbanized floodplains.