

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern

May 16, 2013, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

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

Attendance

Mike Bryant, Vic Pappas, Stefanie Stainton, Chad Cook, Laurel Last, Dotty Juengst, Annette Pelegrin, Bill Hafs, Jeff Mazanec, Julia Noordyk

Welcome and Introductions

Our meeting kicked off with an introduction of our new AOC GLNPO Task Force Leader for Green Bay & Fox River and Menominee AOCs - Mike Bryant. Thank you Mike for joining us today.

Recent project proposals

- Ducks Unlimited—Lake Michigan-Green Bay Coastal Protection and Restoration (Phragmites and hybrid cattails). Laurel is hoping to hear back in July about funding for Phase 2 slated for August 2013-January 2015. This project focuses on Conservation Opportunity Areas. The AOC area included in this phase is Longtail Point south to the Duck Creek Delta. This project includes outreach and education, a half time Green Bay wetland habitat coordinator, \$314,000 requested.
- Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway—Green Bay Living Waterfront Initiative. This proposal will create plans for restoration along the Fox River shore for fish habitat and wetlands. The purpose is to create a near shore shallow fish habitat that will allow people to go near the water. There are 2 possible funding sources - NOAA AOC habitat restoration grant and/or Fish and Wildlife Service, around \$125,000-\$150,000.
- UW-Green Bay—Point au Sable Phase 2-- Restoring fish habitat in Green Bay's Wequiock Creek. This is a full proposal phase and our AOC CAC and DNR submitted a Letter of Support. This project includes improvements for fish spawning, ridge and swale restoration, and invasive species treatment along the shoreline of Point au Sable.

WDNR AOC monitoring and support grant updates

- The Angler Survey is progressing well. The purpose is to get a handle on the problem of fish flavor and odor. 80/500 surveys have been distributed and 19 were received to date. The surveys are handed out with the creel surveys and this process will continue through October. CAC member Jim Jolly will also 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. The theory is that the Cat Island Chain will make it easier for aquatic plants to become re-established; this will include a seed bank study. Four sites on each side of the island chain will be surveyed this year from June-August. A QAPP needs to be completed prior to the start of the project. Another grad student will be doing shoreline bird surveys.
- Trapper survey - nothing new to report. The plan is to distribute surveys in 2014.
- Aesthetics monitoring: we have 16 volunteers completing surveys this season. Chad hopes to hire a student by early June-October for 5 hours/week. The goal is to broaden the survey audience to users, not just data from dedicated surveyors.
- The Fox River clean-up is scheduled for next April. The FWWA acquired a grant and the clean-up is in the planning stages.

- Barkhausen kayak events are in the planning stages. A CAC kayak outing will be planned for late spring or early summer utilizing a kayak program hosted by Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve. Barkhausen's kayak program is designed to bring people closer to the water and to increase appreciation of our water resources. We'll also plan and schedule a CAC/Barkhausen public kayaking event.

Point au Sable Phase 1 project update: this project incorporates invasive species management and education & outreach. It includes a prescribed burn of phragmites in the Point au Sable lagoon in May 2012 followed by herbicide treatment later in the year. It also includes mapping and other invasive species removal projects, educational opportunities for university classes, and a plan to pump water into the lagoon to prevent re-establishment of phragmites.

Outreach and Events

- Neville Public Museum July 4th event: The CAC had a general discussion about possible activities at this event. For example: 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. Annette will send out an e-mail to the CAC to determine interest or availability to volunteer at this event. The CAC had a general discussion about handouts or giveaways. 4-6 volunteers are needed; it is a good outreach opportunity.
- Other upcoming events: Dotty suggested we contact CAC member Nic about an event at the City Deck. Other opportunities mentioned were Kiwanis, Rotary Club, and Retired Men's club if we are in need of volunteers for anything. Sea Grant and FWWA will be at the Tall Ships Festival August 16th.

Future project updates—members recommended the following project updates:

- Point au Sable field trip this summer, headquartered at Lambeau Cottage
- TMDL/Adaptive Management/Nutrient Trading
- Fox River PCB cleanup

Other announcements and key dates:

- We'll plan for June or July for the kayak outings. It was suggested that we meet quarterly, since we have some upcoming outings and field trips.
- There are many regional conferences in our area in the upcoming months and since they are so close to our area, it is a great opportunity for us to be able to attend:
 - Healing our Waters (US EPA AOC) is in September in Milwaukee
 - Lake MI Beach Association and State of Lake MI and US AOC meeting all overlap in October in Sheboygan
 - It was suggested that high school and college students be invited to these conferences
 - Chad will forward conference information as he receives it