

Clean Bay Backers: Citizen Advisory Committee to the WDNR Lower Green Bay & Fox River Area of Concern

Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 23, 2015, 1-3 pm

NEW Water Training room (GBMSD), 2231 N. Quincy Street, Green Bay, WI

Meeting Goals:

1. Committee members are up to date on latest AOC news
2. Committee members have reviewed the current AOC DNR-Citizen/Community roles and understand the opportunities and challenges

Attendees: Kathy Lefebvre, Jim Jolly, Janet Smith, Bruce Deadman, Chad Cook, Bill Hafs, Jessica Schultz, Dan Robinson, Julia Noordyk, Angela Pierce, Vicky Harris, Megan O'Shea, Annette Pelegrin, Paul Linzmeyer

Agenda

General Announcements and Updates

- 2015 EPA AOC Meeting (Chad) March 11-12, 2015 in Toledo OH. Funds are available to cover travel & conference costs. Let Megan know by Feb. 9th if you are interested in attending.
- CAC Funding Updates (Megan) Some funds may be available for administrative assistance. A smaller amount (\$1200-\$1600) may be available for a small project. In very short order we have to know what projects we would like to do.
Also, a DNR video will be made this year and they welcome input for the video.

- Other Announcements

Angela-Bay Lakes RPC is a finalist for a very significant GLRI grant for phragmites removal within the AOC . 2 year grant starting Feb 23, 2015. Almost one million dollars! Congratulations!

Jessica Schultz -FWWA is another GLRI grant finalist: \$4 million grant to study sediment and phosphorus in the Plum/Kankapot sub watershed (near Kaukauna). Congratulations!

Bill Hafs- NEW Water is another GLRI grant finalist: \$1.6 million to study sediment and phosphorus in the Silver Creek sub watershed (Trout/Duck watershed).
A lot of money influx into the LFR watershed-Great News!

CAC Transition Discussion (Chad Cook, UW-Extension)

- Technical Stakeholder Engagement Process (Megan O'Shea, DNR)
This is a new way DNR is moving forward. This is a starting point to see how things go to make progress. Megan will have meetings on BUIs starting with the status of contaminated sediment projects. The Kickoff Meeting is next Friday, January 30, 2015. People can choose what meetings they are interested in and they can attend, as they are interested. Megan will develop strategies about how to approach the BUI and present it and then people can provide input to Megan. Megan is interested in everyone's input. Prior to each meeting Megan will work together with other experts and assess, and get empirical evidence like monitoring to determine if the BUI still exists and what more needs to be done. i.e. what we would measure and then determine what the threshold should be. Then present it at the meeting, and then get feedback after the meeting. DNR has to show EPA the status of each BUI. Megan will start with the low hanging fruit to get momentum going. Here's the planned meeting schedule:
 1. Degraded Aesthetics-February 2015
 2. Bird and Animal Deformities and Reproductive Problems- March 2015
 3. Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavor Meeting -May 2015
 4. Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Populations-later in 2015

The Current Reality (Chad)

- **Technical Stakeholder Engagement Discussion** (the new way DNR is moving forward)
There will be one official technical input process, several existing groups, BUI specific-focus, process is open to all, and purpose is to get a reaction to proposal. Q: Who fills the role of implementer of RAP recommendations? Networking information sharing and collaboration meeting may be needed.
- **Traditional CAC Role** (Chad and Group)
Review of our current CAC charter: What was CAC role in the past? Restoration: Technical group made recommendations and strategies and then the CAC implemented with community. Bringing community resources into projects fostering relationships to identify resources. Championing to build community support and involvement. Seek community support for remedial actions. Advise DNR with respect to public opinion. Source of volunteers and other help with BUI assessment (Aesthetics) & Public outreach.
Challenges:
Who is convening the group? DNR used to
Extension support is ending 6/30/2015
Annette leaving 2/6/2015
Unclear what support \$ and staff DNR can provide
Group needs a clear plan and role
- **Outreach Role** (Chad and Group)
 - o Outreach materials
 - o Canoe trip
 - o Kayak trips
 - o Foxy Lady Tour with elected officials
 - o Audience analysis-elected officials and community leaders
- **Challenges**
 - o UW-Extension role is ending
 - o \$1200-\$1600 available for an outreach event
 - o Suggestion: if DNR is not supporting as far as staff, we need to do it a different way; we need to have officers and a chairman, then also need a work plan
 - o Question? Who is driving our work? Right now DNR is driving our work but maybe the experts in this room need to organize and make a plan to move forward to make progress with the DNR as a partner. We need to get focused. This process in this meeting has brought out these issues. New collaborations are important.
 - o FWWA offered their staff to continue convening our meetings until a process/funding for administrative support is put into place.
 - o Bay Beach project is something we could impact and right now we have an opportunity to contribute and help.

Moving Forward

- Could Technical Stakeholder Engagement Process fulfill role of a traditional AOC?
- Is there still an Outreach Role and is there interest from this group in filling that role?
 - o If an Outreach Role continues to exist, what relationship with DNR is most ideal? What are the pros/cons of different relationships?
 - o If an Outreach Role continues to exist, what structure does the group take? Who leads?

Recap and discuss next steps

What makes the most sense? Do we try to get as much staff support from DNR or do we go with a different model? Need from Megan: what does DNR need from CAC? What does Megan want us to do? How does she see us moving forward? Do we need an outreach meeting? Bruce will put together notes about the Bay Beach/Leadership Green Bay. Julia will arrange for an outreach subcommittee meeting via a doodle poll.

Next Clean Bay Backers Meeting Thursday, Feb 19, 2015 3-5 pm

Adjourn 3 pm