

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern

February 20, 2014, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

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

Attendance

Bruce Deadman, Pat Finder-Stone, Bill Hafs, Brad Lange, Laurel Last, Kathy Lefebvre, Jeff Mazanec, Julia Noordyk

Ducks Unlimited presentation (Bruce Deadman)

Bruce gave a presentation on Ducks Unlimited (DU), focusing on work in Wisconsin and Mexico. Annette has posted the presentation online here: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/aocs/fox-river-green-bay/cac-meetings/cac-meeting-minutes/>. He emphasized that, although the group was founded by hunters, it is a conservation organization, not a hunting organization. Also, it does work in every state and all around the world. Here are some highlights from the presentation:

Wisconsin DU

- Spent almost \$2 million in WI in 2013, and \$22.6 million overall
- Completed over 2,100 projects that have conserved over 111,000 acres
- Projects in Barkhausen and Sensiba Wildlife Area
- Brown County northern pike project—in spring, spawning pike and ducks use the same shallow-water areas
- Winegar Pond, Oconto Marsh
- Horicon Marsh Initiative
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) initiatives in WI
 - 58 projects
 - Over \$100 million spent
- Policy issues
- Mentored hunts

Ducks Unlimited de Mexico (DUMAC)

- Started in 1974
- Wetlands in Mexico
 - 0.6% of wetlands in the world
 - 35% (2.8 million acres) of wetlands had been lost or negatively impacted
 - Mangroves, intertidal flats and seagrass beds are integral components of coastal landscape in Mexico
 - This landscape provides wintering habitat for 73% of the migratory and resident waterfowl and shorebird species
- DUMAC major initiatives
 - Wetlands monitoring and evaluation
 - Mexico's Wetlands Inventory & Classification
 - Digital Change Detection Projects
 - Wetlands conservation and restoration
 - 1.9 million acres conserved
 - Mangrove restoration initiative
 - Training and environmental education
 - Teaching the teachers
 - RESERVA program—staff at government agencies and NGOs
 - Wetlands and waterfowl workshops
 - Public policy

Announcements and key dates

- The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance Conference is March 4-5 at the Bridgewood Hotel in Neenah
 - See www.fwwa.org for more information.
 - Julia will be taking the UW-Sea Grant van—contact her if you'd like to ride along
- The National AOC Conference will be held in Chicago this year on March 18-19
 - Find out more and register for the webinar at <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/aoc/conference/index.html>
 - Julia, Mike Grimm, Nicole Van Helden, and Laurel are going from our AOC
- Watershed Symposium (Lower Fox River Watershed Monitoring Program) will be held at UW-Green Bay on April 8
 - High school students will share research projects from Lower Fox River watersheds
 - For information on past years, see <http://www.uwgb.edu/watershed/student/activities/symposium.htm>
- Bruce—Green Bay DU events coming up (see <http://www.ducks.org/wisconsin/events> for more information and to buy tickets)
 - Annual N.E.W. (Green Bay) dinner this Thursday, February 27th at Riverside Ballroom (\$55)
 - First annual UWGB dinner Thursday, March 6th at The Woods (\$15 students; \$25 others)
- Julia—American Water Resources Association (WI section) annual conference March 13-14 in Wisconsin Dells
 - See <http://state.awra.org/wisconsin/2014meeting.html>
- Laurel—Attended UW Sea-Grant press event this morning to announce completion of new State of the Bay report
 - Evaluates the health of Green Bay using various indicators
 - Last State of the Bay report was in 1993
 - See <http://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/sotb> to download the report

AOC presentation at Green Bay Chapter of Great Lakes Sport Fishermen meeting

Laurel shared that she had given a presentation on the AOC, focusing on fish-related impairments and projects, on February 19th. CAC members asked what questions she received from the audience. Her answers:

- Before building the Cat Island structure, did they figure out how it would affect the currents in the Bay?
 - Laurel—Did not really know the answer to this question
 - Angler concerned that the restoration project will have negative effects on the currents (and thus fishing) in the bay
 - Bruce—Project should restore the currents to how they were before the islands were lost. Janet would be a good one to ask about this.
- Is what you do (the AOC) related to the Dead Zone in the bay?
 - Laurel replied that Yes, it is, and explained how phosphorus in the watershed leads to low oxygen levels in some areas of the bay
- What do you know about the phosphorus bill being considered in Wisconsin, and do you have an opinion on it?
 - Laurel replied that she did not know much about the bill, but understood that it would give facilities more time to comply with the new phosphorus limits, and they would need to pay toward phosphorus reduction projects in watershed
 - CAC discussion followed about the bill—different perspectives
 - Bill—Good for small treatment plants that have hard time meeting P limits or using full-scale adaptive management

- Important that funds not used to replace current state funding
- Encourages accountability
- Environmental groups have had concerns about this bill delaying needed P reductions
- Bill was revised to address concerns
- EPA will need to approve it before it can become law

AOC Outreach Subcommittee Report (Julia Noordyk, WI Sea Grant)

Julia provided an update on AOC Outreach Subcommittee activities

- Decided to focus on elected officials as target audience
- Committee members have a lot of valuable experience related to outreach and this audience in particular
- Will work on key messages related to each BUI, grouping BUIs by cause (toxics versus point and nonpoint (phosphorus and total suspended solids))
- Julia handed out proposed schedule through June

2014 AOC Support Grants

Laurel announced that all proposals were funded, noting that Citizen Science proposal was withdrawn (needs more prep work—maybe next year). Funded projects:

- AOC...On the Move (kayak outings through Barkhausen)
- “Send your Legislator Down the River”
- Outreach Giveaways (reusable gift bags with hat and AOC info for event participants)
- AOC Boat Tour (Foxy Lady)
- Aesthetics Monitoring (continue in 2014)

Our next regular AOC CAC meeting will be March 20th