

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern

September 19, 2013, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

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

Attendance

Mike Bryant (via phone), Pat Finder-Stone, Kathy Lefebvre, Julia Noordyk, Vicky Harris, Dotty Juengst, Chuck Larscheid, Chad Cook, Jim Jolly, Bruce Deadman, Annette Pelegrin, Laurel Last, John Kennedy (for Bill Hafs), Janet Smith, Stefanie Stainton

RAP Update

CAC Input on RAP Update 2013—Work is progressing. Right now, Laurel is getting input from the other technical committees and the Social Uses workgroup. The CAC will have the opportunity to comment on the RAP update at the next meeting on October 24th. Laurel will send us a draft ahead of the meeting via e-mail. Laurel's tentative plan is to post a draft for public comment on November 8th.

Public Outreach

CAC Discussion: Should we establish a public outreach subcommittee? At past meetings, we've had many ideas about public outreach events and activities. A coordinated outreach and education subcommittee will help us narrow our ideas and focus our efforts. The general consensus of the committee is yes, public outreach is very important. We need to connect with other outreach groups, like Bay Renaissance, NEW Water. We need outreach materials. We need funding for someone to do this task. It was noted that a good outreach program takes dedicated and funded staff. John from NEW Water noted that the Dead Zone webinar garnished a lot of media attention, and they have dedicated outreach staff that did a great job with the story. We have a lot going on in our watershed like TMDL, Dead Zone, river cleanup, AOC, phosphorus committee. At the same time, it gets confusing to people. Kathy noted that in terms of outreach, we should start simple and build over time.

Julia Noordyk volunteered to chair the subcommittee. Others who will join or help are Dotty, Kathy, Vicky, Janet, Bruce, Annette. Laurel and Chad, and someone from NEW Water will also provide support and input. The first task will be to get a scope of work and possibly look at support grant funding.

AOC Article & BUI Status Update document

- AOC Article--Comments from the committee indicated we can adapt this document and use it for public outreach.
- BUI Status Report—this is a summary or snapshot of where the impairments stand at this time. Chad would like us to hand out the brochure and get feedback from neighbors, friends, and the general public, especially for the center section. The committee felt the symbols should be removed and the center section should be simplified for the general public. UW-Extension and Sea Grant are in the very early stages of a project to put this document on-line and to make it interactive.

Support Grant Ideas

These grants are designated for monitoring and outreach. About \$200,000 is available each year for all 5 AOCs in the state of Wisconsin. There's a \$25,000 limit per project. Review of last year's grants:

- Aesthetics Surveys by a UW-Green Bay student
- FWWA received a grant for a Fox River Cleanup day next spring
- Kayak Outings—we completed this project. The CAC sponsored 4 kayak outings hosted by Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve's Adventure Kayaking program. We designated one outing for the CAC on July 7th, and the other three for the general public on August 15, August 29, and September 7, 2013. The response to the press release was overwhelming; in a matter of one hour all of the trips were booked and we had a waiting list of over 20 people. In all, 30 people participated in these outings. During the orientation at each event, we presented AOC talking points, maps and fact sheets about the AOC. We spoke about the Cat Island Chain Restoration and the benefits to wildlife and habitat. Dotty suggested a follow-up survey; if not for this time, we should do it for future outings. Due to the overwhelming public response and public outreach success, Annette recommends that our CAC continue to sponsor future kayak outings and continue future collaboration with Barkhausen as we move forward with public outreach and education efforts.

Future support grant ideas:

- Sponsored kayak outings in partnership with Barkhausen
- Citizen Science opportunities—partner with other entities—for example, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve, Neville Public Museum—to fund and coordinate their work.
- Children's Museum –on river
- Einstein Project
- Jack Day Educational Center
- Script for Foxy Lady Tour
- EPA Ship (Jackson)-Vicky Harris
- Also need team bonding ideas

Other announcements and key dates

- State of Lake Michigan Conference at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, WI October 15-17, 2013 <http://aqua.wisc.edu/solm>
- Kathy reported thousands of migrating cormorants along the bay last week.
- Fox River Cleanup Facility tour on October 1, 2013 in Green Bay. Contact Annette at pelegria@uwgb.edu if interested. Many members have already done this tour and they highly recommend it.