

## **Clean Bay Backers: Citizen Advisory Committee to the DNR for the Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Monday, December 8, 2014, 1-3 pm

UW-Green Bay Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay WI

### **Meeting Goals:**

1. Provide input on the Bay Beach project
2. Continue discussion about CAC direction for 2015

**Attendees:** Bill Hafs, Pat Finder-Stone, Angela Pierce, Kathy Lefebvre, Dotty Juengst, Chad Cook, Jeff Mazanec, Julia Noordyk, Annette Pelegrin, Stefanie Stainton, Jessica Schultz, Dr. Julie Kinzelman of Racine Health Department, Vicky Harris, Chuck Larscheid, Megan O'Shea, Bruce Deadman, Janet Smith

### **Agenda**

#### **Bay Beach Restoration**

**Beach restoration case study** by Dr. Julie Kinzelman of the City of Racine health Department:

1. Sam Myers Park beach in Racine is similar to Bay Beach in that it is an embayed area highly infested with phragmites. Swimming was banned in the 1990s due to high bacteria. Continued testing shows that the beach is still unsafe so it's still closed to swimming. Sources of pollution were unknown at the time. Sanitary surveys began in 2009. Studies showed that stormwater outfalls were not a source of pollution. However, data indicated the breakwater was causing stagnation and the pooled water was a major source of pollution. Shallow near-shore water exceeded the EPA standard for e-coli. The data also indicated that the sand is a source of e-coli. Over 3 acres of phragmites is a problem. A dye study showed the breakwater is causing stagnation and dispersing pollutants and sediment and e-coli. Researchers raised the question: How many years of data do you need to make good decisions? Research shows restoration can begin without having all the puzzle pieces. Any restoration plan must take into account how the space is utilized. What are the predominant uses? Julie listed park restoration plan items like permeable parking lot, invasive species removal, increase break wall height for first 200 feet etc. This is a multiphase project that will cost around one million dollars. They are looking for grant money and will balance utility with ecological restoration.
2. Economic benefits for community investment in beach restoration
  - a. North Beach (Racine) example: Restoration benefits were calculated using beach attendance records, value of a beach visit. For example Ironman competition would bring in two million dollars.
  - b. Significant property investment.
  - c. Returns on "Blue" investments
  - d. Cost benefit analyses should be employed. Mitigation measures should be based on sound science.

**Bay Beach Restoration** Action Plan Input: Angela Pierce, Bay-Lakes Regional Planning Commission. The committee began discussions about the following points and will continue with this discourse over the next few meetings.

1. Review vision for Bay Beach-similar to North Beach (Racine)
  - a. Destination since 1890s
  - b. Pollution led to disuse
  - c. Public desire for restoration of beach
2. Goals to achieving the vision
3. Real or perceived limitations to achieving the vision
  - a. Support of the City of Green Bay has been limited. However Friends of Bay Beach is very excited about this project.
  - b. No path or signs to draw people to the beach as an attraction
  - c. Maintenance costs to the city are a roadblock
4. Actions needed
5. Restoration Action Plan content

### **Chamber meeting “Day at the Bay”-update**

Day at the Bay Chamber of Commerce committee’s focus has changed the direction and goal of event. They narrowed the focus to more of a water quality event, but still hope to get people to see the bay and appreciate the resource. We will not run the event, but we could help them with resources but we will not be stewards of the event for future years. Jessica said FWWA would be interested in storm water education and would like to be included.

### **How to move the CAC forward to 2015** Chad Cook, UW-Extension:

We need to think about funded projects through the CAC support grants.

Do we want to replicate any of our 4 projects from 2014?

Last spring the Outreach Subcommittee made some audience decisions already, and our survey on the boat focused on getting to know our audience better. Julia suggested we stick with this target audience to make more progress to support AOC projects that will get us closer to delisting. Julia raised a point about sticking with our target audience of elected officials or do we switch tactics? We’ve only scratched the surface with this audience. How do we keep them engaged after this initial event?

Does the group want to ask for support money for UW-Extension type person for July – December 2015? Yes. Megan recommended breaking out money for staff to keep the committee moving forward and then add money for staff per project. Megan feels that we could partner with other orgs to help fund specific projects. Viable private-public partnerships are more attractive for funding. Deadlines are not set as of now for CAC support because DNR is still working on the overall plan, but the sooner we can identify projects the better. We can move forward on staff support, so the CAC should let Chad know their thoughts via phone or e-mail. Vicky suggested an event on the WG Jackson research boat.

The Milwaukee CAC identified a few other successful CACs and in January they will report results of interviews of these successful CACs: Buffalo NY, Clinton River, Cuyahoga, Maumee, White Lake, and Detroit. We can participate in the results webinar in January, 2015.

Bill is interested in BUI issues and how can we help DNR with that. We need a planning process and work plans. STAC, Biota and Habitat workgroups used to help with BUI technical issues. If you want a successful AOC, we need an active and strong CAC. The group feels that a planning process and work plans are the top priority of this group and we need to have this discussion sooner rather than later.

We can scope out staff support & project proposals, then possibly the outreach committee could meet to discuss other projects. The DNR is working on AOC public engagement strategy and strategic needs. Chad and Annette will do some survey work with the CAC to find out what types of projects we are interested in. Our top priority is getting staff support. Chad and Annette will put together a proposal.

**Other announcements and key dates**

Megan asked for any final input on the RAP update by December 12. The CAC will plan to have 2 meetings in January. Annette will send out a doodle poll.

**Adjourn 3 pm**