

**Lower Menominee River Area of Concern
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting**
February 19, 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. CST
UW-Marinette, Marinette, WI
Minutes prepared by Laurel Last

***note: Things written in green denote potential action items.**

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Meeting attendees are updated on AOC sediment remediation and habitat restoration projects and provided an opportunity to ask questions and discuss each project
- CAC members provide input on South Channel Habitat Project treatment options
- CAC members are updated on status of Menominee Conservation District's capacity grant
- CAC members discuss community outreach plans/needs for 2015

ATTENDEES

Cheryl Bougie (WDNR), Gail Clark (M&M Great Lakes Sport Fisherman), Mark Erickson (Co-Chair), Laurel Last (WDNR), Trygve Rhude (Chappee Rapids Audubon Society), Keith West (Co-Chair)

Introductions, Overview of Agenda, Review of Minutes – Mark Erickson and Keith West, CAC Co-Chairs

- Laurel shared that Sharon (MDEQ) is sick and will not be calling in

Betterment Action Update – Cheryl Bougie (WDNR)

- All dredging is complete
- Sand cover will be placed this spring/summer, after receive USACE permit
- Need Severson to complete site restoration
- \$100,000 GLLA funds will be used for Phragmites treatment in South Channel area

Menekaunee Harbor Update – Cheryl Bougie

- Met with consultants (REL and NES) yesterday to discuss habitat restoration plan
- Will complete plan and specs in March
- Plan to bid out end of March and award in April, implementation to start in June
- Short on sediment for beneficial reuse area due to large amounts of wood encountered during dredging
- Agreed on deeper water habitat zone in SE corner, less material needed to achieve water depths
- Reworking planting zones and species lists based on new water elevations
- Carp barriers not feasible, so will use other methods to cope (less plugs & more seeding, e.g.)
- Discussed using logs from harbor dredging for deep water fish habitat (Lot 24)
- Tree drops—use hardwoods, clusters rather than single tree drops
- Will need to plan for recreational user access to protect the habitat area
- Severson to complete harbor construction restoration, place beneficial reuse material, and restore Lot 24

CAC letter to Menominee City Planning Commission – Mark Erickson

- CAC will send letter to City of Menominee supporting zoning ordinances as a means to protect natural areas (similar to letter to City of Marinette)

- Mark spoke with Tom Lesperance, City Code Enforcement Officer, who has agreed to pass the letter on to Kim Coggins on the Planning Commission
- Mark will work with Keith to complete and sign the letter and send it to Tom

Green Island update – Mark Erickson

- Development is moving forward—starting permit process
- Mark spoke with John Gard about coming to a CAC meeting to discuss the project
- They are not interested in talking about it right now

Menominee Conservation District capacity grant update – Laurel Last (WDNR)

- Donna is revising proposal to include more details, as requested by Erika Jensen (GLC)
- Grant period will end in May—will need to apply again for next round of funding (June 2015-May 2016)

Community Outreach plans/needs for 2015 – Laurel Last

- WDNR capacity grant – Laurel
 - Working on scope of work for 2015—plan to finalize next Wednesday (25th)
 - \$5,000 set aside for our AOC
 - Projects:
 - Electronic newsletter (Sheboygan River AOC example)
 - Update boat launch signs and Menekaunee Harbor sign
 - Update AOC educational display
 - Open house
 - River cleanup event
 - Harbor talks
 - AOC videos

South Channel Habitat Project Update and treatment options discussion – Laurel and Cheryl

- Draft Concept Package from Anderson/Interfluve
- TAC invited to workshop to narrow down list of options
- \$500,000 earmarked for implementation (WI noncompetitive request)
- Note that GLLA funds will be used for Phragmites treatment (separate project)
- See handouts for list and descriptions of options that made the cut for next phase of design
- CAC input desired—What do you see as priorities for South Channel?
- Group generally agreed that we were on the right track
- Concern about #1, “Lower Ogden Street Crossing,” being removed from list
- Explained that moving sanitary line might be cost and time prohibitive, but can still lower crossing to above line, and could proceed with deeper excavation at later date
- Group also very interested in #13, “pike spawning marshes,” and would like to write support letter or talk with City about moving project forward
- Keith—if planting wild rice, should involve Menominee Nation
- **Keith will send Menominee Nation contact information to Steve Choy and Cheryl**

Lower Menominee River Fish Passage Update – Laurel

- Phase I – Downstream Passage at Park Mill Dam (Fish Bypass)
 - Power canal has been refilled and units are back online
 - Fish passage system will be complete by spring
- Phase II – Upstream Passage at Menominee Dam (Fish Lift)
 - On schedule to be complete by April 2015

- Phase III – Downstream Passage at Menominee Dam (Fish Bypass and trashrack replacement)
 - Will be moving forward with final design (have 30% design) after team has reviewed results from WDNR Wolf River turbine passage survival study
 - Gave quick overview of study and results
 - Let Laurel know if you'd like to see study proposal
 - Final report out in March or April
 - Construction is expected to occur in 2016
- Phase IV – Upstream transport of lake sturgeon (Transport Trailer)
 - Further development for custom transport trailer is on hold
 - Will use existing truck/trailer to transport fish in 2015
- Sturgeon research project (Dan Isermann, UW-Stevens Point)
 - Plan to pass 30 fish in March (dependent upon winter thaw) and 30 in May for an early spring, late spring comparison
 - Fish lift may not be ready in time to pass first set of fish, but will be for second
- **Laurel will send out Rory Alsberg's Phase I and II update with links to project photos**

Island Rookery Habitat Enhancement Project update – Laurel

- Update from Kris Erickson, Ecology and Environment, Inc.
- RFPs went out to 8 firms
- Work will include cutting and removal of cut invasive plant material, chemical applications, and ultimately restoration planting
- Proposals/bids are due February 20th
- Will then evaluate bids, determine whether they can select from bids received, hopefully select, and then get someone or some team under contract
- Only days away from providing the Draft Invasive Species Control and Management Plan to USACE and Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) for their review

Agency Updates – Laurel

- Fish contaminant monitoring report status
 - Fish tissue in the lab
 - Should be analyzed next couple months
- Rio Vista Slough monitoring report status
 - No PCBs found (all non-detects)
 - Draft report finished in couple months
 - May take another year for final report
 - Mike Bryant said should be able to remove BUIs when data finalized/validated (no need to wait for final report)
- 2014 RAP Update
 - Sharon finished her review last week
 - **Laurel working on updates, hopes to finish by next Friday**
 - **Will need CAC letter of support (after CAC reviews document)**
 - Next steps—Sharon's/Rick's secretary, then Rick, then Kendra, then CAC/TAC/public review, then back to Kendra to finalize and post/send to EPA
 - Hope to finalize by end of March

Public Comment and Other News

- Laurel—MMC is looking to have an organization or community group make some Peregrine Falcon boxes for them to install on their tall ship assembly facility, and I told Todd Christian that I'd ask CAC for ideas
 - Trygve will contact Todd

- Trygve—Chappee Rapids Audubon Society banquet March 20th—group is considering giving Eagle Creek Renewable Energy an award for fish passage work

Identify Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date

- Next meeting March 19th?—YES
- Identify Agenda Topics—Send agenda ideas to Sharon and Laurel

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ONLINE RESOURCES

EPA – <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/aoc/menominee/index.html>

MDEQ – http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3677_15430_57388---,00.html

UW-Extension – <http://fyi.uwex.edu/aocs/>

WDNR – <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/greatlakes/menominee.html>

2013 RAP and F&W Plans available

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/greatlakes/documents/Menominee2013RAPUpdate.pdf>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/greatlakes/documents/Menominee2013FishAndWildlifePlan.pdf>