



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
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MINUTES

WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

Multi-Purpose Room
Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
29270 County Highway G
Ashland, WI 54806
(715) 685-9983

Thursday, June 26, 2014
9:45 AM

- I. **Call to Order** by Mayor Larry McDonald at 10:15am

- II. **Roll Call:** Mayor Larry MacDonald, Julie Kinzelman for Mayor John Dickert, Ed Eberle, Ken Leinbach, Jim Hurley , Stephen Pienkos for Senator Wirsch, Steve Galerneau, John Leiber for Representative Thomas Weatherston, Sheri Walz, Ervin Soulier, Patty Hoefft, William Schuster, Sharon Cook
Others present: Mike Friis (WCMP), Kate Angel (WCMP), Todd Breiby (WCMP) Anne Iwata (WCMP), Travis Olson (WCMP) Bryce Luchterhand from Senator Baldwin's office.

- III. **Approval of Agenda**

The Council approved the day's agenda.

- IV. **Approval of Minutes (February 20, 2014)**
Correction to minutes for the February update on the Sea Caves from Mayor McDonald: The correct figure is more than 138,000 people viewed the ice caves in two months in 2014. Park visitation for all of 2013 was 148,556. The Council approved the February 20, 2014 meeting minutes.

V. **Welcome** **Jason Maloney**, Center Director

Noted the 37,000 square-foot visitor center houses partners National Parks, US Fish and Wildlife, Youth Conservation, Wisconsin Historical Society archives for eight counties, UW Extension, and Friends of the Alliance Center. He praised the WCMP for its outreach efforts through funding that touch thousands of lives.

Scott Griffiths, Mayor, City of Washburn

Scott is in his second term as mayor attended his first Coastal Management Council meeting. He related that the program is always spoken about in a positive light.

Debra Lewis, Mayor, City of Ashland

Debra thanked the Council for funding to acquire the ore dock for public use. In her first term as mayor, she pointed out Ashland notables—mural capital of the state, Wisconsin Brats Grand Champion, microbrews, German chocolate and cookies, Northland College, and its own medical center.

VI. Public Comments

Bryce Luchterhand from Senator Baldwin's office is one of six outreach staff members in the state. Senator Baldwin is planning a tour around the coasts and he should be contacted for any projects, sites, meetings, etc. that the Senator should see. Bryce has experience working for President Clinton, Governor Doyle and Senator Kohl.

VII. Action Item: Coastal Management Grant Priorities

WCMP staff recommended retaining the 2013 grant priorities that were tweaked for water levels. The Council approved the grant priorities.

VIII. Reports

A. NWRPC Activities

Jason Laumann, Senior Planner
Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Water Ways Guide created with WCMP funding has garnered inquiries from as far away as Puerto Rico. NWRPC is working on obtaining a National Heritage Area designation for the North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix. NWRPC is working with Representative Duffy on designation. Jason, knowing it contentious, pitched funding assistance for a mining impact study on infrastructure, roads, schools, community and economic development, not to prevent, but to prepare communities for mining. Wetlands Assessment for Douglas County is a little less than halfway completed.

B. Lake Superior NERR

Dr. Erika Washburn, Reserve Manager
Lake Superior NERR

This was Dr. Washburn's first WCMC meeting. She is related to the Washburns whose city bears the same name. She is an anthropologist who has worked at NOAA, EPA, Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources. Her focus is coastal systems both technically and how people interact with them. There was a ribbon cutting for the new NERR facilities. New equipment is in place. A temporary exhibit is installed in the interpretive center. A McNair Program grant from the US Department of Education will offer opportunities to first generation college students and minority students in learning scientific methods, exploring career paths and performing undergrad research at the UW-Superior. A NOAA Science Collaborative Transfer Grant will fund NERR staff travel to Lake Erie to strengthen ties with Lake Superior and develop place based education. Digital Coast planning will be held August 20 and 21, 2014. The NERR has a strong advisory board. The community is interested in the NERR program and updates. NERR will work on reports on field data for water quality, biodiversity and invertebrates.

C. WI Wetland Association Activities

Erin O'Brien, Wetland Policy Director
Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA)

WWA is a statewide non-profit. Erin's PowerPoint showed how WWA leveraged WCMP funding to deliver statewide programs and build statewide capacity. The goal is to enhance local wetland protection via policies, practices and engagement. Two publications provided basic wetland information and a resource guidebook for local policies. Eight training workshops have reached more than 150 staff from 50 counties including 47 individuals from 12 Coastal counties. Douglas County Science-Collaborative Watershed Assessment is a NOAA subcontract which was the first fee for service contract where a community sought WWA out. Based on the WCMP grants, \$678,887 in additional funds have been leveraged. Lessons learned include partnership approach works, many unmet needs, policy change takes time and support, reading elected official is difficult, need more wetland planning support.

D. Ice Caves

Bob Krumenaker, Superintendent
National Park Service, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

January 15, 2014 sea caves opened for the first time since 2009. Real Time Wave Observation System cameras, funded by WCMP, were used to monitor. Median coverage was national and international. Three sound bites: National Park, climate change and community. 138,292 for the season which is 93% of 2013 park total. The caves provided an influx of visitors generating an additional \$10 to 20 million in revenue, three times the normal winter lodging, and two times other sales. However, a new more appropriate and cost recovery fee structure needs to be proposed by the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and approved by Washington. It was successful and fun because of partnerships and collaboration—federal, tribal, state and local agencies, 14 different national park areas or offices, business community, tourism infrastructure and non-profit partners.

E. Wisconsin Coastal Management
Program Updates

Mike Friis, Manager
Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

Mike Friis and staff highlighted the written Program Updates for the meeting.

In response to Anne's noting that WCMP has worked on improving the quality of narrative status and quantitative performance measure reporting to NOAA over the course of her tenure at WCMP, Jim Hurley underscored that good reporting to NOAA was probably responsible for UW Sea Grant's increase in funding.

IX. Updates from Coastal Management Council

Ken Leinbach noted the Rotary Centennial Arboretum project.

Jim Hurley stated that UW Sea Grant had just held an advisory committee meeting. Change at Sea Grant: As of last meeting there were nine people with 25 years or more at Sea Grant, as of July 1, there is one. Vicky and Bud Harris released the long time in coming *State of Green Bay* study. Sea Grant entered into a partnership with the UW Arboretum on Great Lakes education.

Patty Hoeft noted Brown County's phosphorus monitoring and abatement in Duck Creek. Oneida Nation hosted the 2014 Native American Tourism of Wisconsin (NATOW) conference. Also working on wetland restoration for public access and living on the water.

Sheri Walz briefly reviewed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, noting the closure of Milwaukee's Burnham Canal and the de-authorization of a small triangle in Manitowoc. Four Harbor Assistance grants three to Lake Michigan and one to Lake Superior have been made for a total of \$6.5 million: Dredge Manitowoc Harbor, restore seawall, fund Frazier Shipyard Phase 3 and Sturgeon Bay ship building.

Bill Schuster noted working with Ducks Unlimited on Dunes Lake restoration, an agreement reached with the golf course to reach the bat caves. White nose syndrome has reached Wisconsin. Lake levels, now a bit higher, are still an issue.

Mayor Larry McDonald reviewed the GLRI grant with the US Forest Products Lab to plant trees in Bayfield and Ashland counties. Working on a swimming area improvement. Larry, Mayor Griffiths and Mayor Lewis attended a Great Lakes mayors' meeting.

Ed Eberle pointed out the continuing partnership with Discover Wisconsin, this time for an episode on the Apostle Islands.

Ervin Soulier said that he is not long for this world unless WCMP provides more funding.

Sharon Cook noted the start of the cleanup of the Burnham Canal. The Public Policy Forum its Norman N. Gill Award for Individual Excellence in recognition of adherence to good government principles of collaboration, cooperation and diligence to Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Director Kevin Shafer,.

Steve Galerneau noted the Superfund Cleanup and Board of Governors. The Ashland Ore Dock presents permitting challenges. Great Lakes piers in general are problematic and DNR is looking to update guidance.

Julie Kinzelman related that Racine Mayor Dickert is the incoming chair for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaways International Board of Directors. Racine continues work on the redevelopment of the Root River and the Root River Watershed Plan. WCMP, GLRI and EPA provide funding for ongoing coastal restoration. Racine Health is working with Kenosha on beach/coastal restoration and implementation of Best Management Practices and also with 12 locations in the Bay Lake area.

Stephen Pienkos from Senator Wirch's office stated that Senator Wirch is sponsoring a bill to ban microbeads manufacture and selling in Wisconsin.

X. New Business

XI. Adjournment

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, September 25, 2014

**XII. "G-WOW" Changing Climate,
Changing Culture**

tour by **Cathy Techtmann**, Outreach Specialist
University of Wisconsin-Extension

Site Visits: City of Ashland waterfront including Prentice Park and Bayview Pier.