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MINUTES

WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences
600 East Greenfield Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 382-1700

Thursday, February 19, 2015
10:00 AM

- I. Call to Order** by Mayor Larry McDonald, Chair, at 10:08 am
- II. Roll Call:** Mayor Larry MacDonalD, Mayor John Dickert, Ed Eberle, David Hart for Jim Hurley, Steve Galarneau, John Leiber for Representative Thomas Weatherston, Sharon Cook, Ken Leinbach, Stephen Pienkos for Senator Robert Wirsch, Patty Hoeft, William Schuster

Absent: Sheri Walz, Ervin Soulier

Others present: Mike Friis (WCMP), Kate Angel (WCMP), Todd Breiby (WCMP), Travis Olson (WCMP), Anne Iwata (WCMP).

- III. Approval of Agenda.** The Council approved the day's agenda.
- IV. Approval of Minutes (September 26, 2014).** The Council approved the September 26, 2014 minutes.
- V. Welcome and Overview of School of Freshwater Sciences**

UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences Dean **David Garman** welcomed the Council to the School. He briefly listed the 11 different disciplines including policy that provide multi- and interdisciplinary studies, research and solutions to water issues. The School provides the integration of science, technology and policy. Sharon Cook said the School has been a catalyst for development on the South Side of Milwaukee. Mayor Dickert noted the importance of the work the School is doing.

Professor **Sandra McLellan** runs the McLellan Lab in the School of Freshwater Sciences. She noted that research by the School is enabled by access to Lake Michigan. Dr. McLellan outlined how the students and lab identified the source of the fecal bacteria, specifically E. coli for the South Shore Beach closings—stormwater outfalls leaking sewerage. She explained how the science has changed with the development of source sequencing. Dr. McLellan also discussed the importance of the water quality work implemented at Bradford Beach.

Associate Professor **Harvey Bootsma** reviewed his work on algae and phosphorus in Lake Michigan and noted the WCMP first supported this study. There is significant phosphorus loading from Lake Michigan tributaries. He explained the relationship between Cladophora and zebra mussels: mussels make the water clearer which in turn provides more light for Cladophora to grow. Phosphorus is a secondary issue to mussels but is the only element that can be managed. Even though phosphorus loading standards were met, Cladophora still increased due to water clarity. Dr. Bootsma developed a Cladophora growth model to be used as a decision support tool. The Cladophora growth model was then integrated into a nearshore ecosystem model.

VI. Public Comments

Chair Larry MacDonalD presented a plaque to the now retired Dr. Don Reed in recognition of his 40 years of service to SEWRPC and Wisconsin's coastal communities.

VII. Action Item: Report of the Project Selection Committee. The Council approved sending the recommendations of the Project Selection Committee to the Department of Administration. Mike Friis asked that recusals be sent to staff to keep on file.

VIII. Reports

A. Redevelopment in Oak Creek

Sue Winnen, Environmental Engineer
City of Oak Creek

In the 1950's a 250 acre industrial park overlooking Lake Michigan sent waste water into a lagoon which left a 250 acre brown field. With initial WCMP support, Oak Creek set out to redevelop this area. The steps are plan, remediation reposition, open to the public to gain support and attract funding. It will be a \$50 to \$70 million redevelopment. WCMP recently funded a bluff and shoreline stabilization study.

B. Fund for Lake Michigan

Casey Eggleston, Program Officer
Fund for Lake Michigan

Casey reviewed the history of how the Fund for Lake Michigan came about—settlement with We Energies, Madison gas and Electric, Wisconsin Public Power, Inc in a suit filed by Clean Wisconsin, the Sierra Club, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Rather than build a \$1.2 billion cooling tower, \$4 million for 25 years for grants is available. The goals are to improve water quality, provide education, increase public access and foster economic development. There are spring and fall grant cycle each year. This year's foci are nutrient management, green infrastructure and beaches.

C. Wisconsin Commercial Ports Planning

Ernie Perry, Mid-America Freight Coalition Program Director
Ben Zietlow, Geoeconomist, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ernie discussed the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE). WCMP funded, in part a planning effort titled "Unleashing our Competitive Advantage," that completed an infrastructure baseline of seven different commercial ports.

Ben presented on the data collection for the Wisconsin Commercial Ports Planning efforts. This effort inventoried the ports, their facilities and staff. Since the collection is similar to what Minnesota has collected it will aid in the efforts of the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, provide comparative and marketing data. The next phase will examine what type of markets Wisconsin currently has and on market scenarios.

D. SEWRPC Activities

Thomas Slawski, Chief Biologist
Southeastern WI Regional Planning Commission

Thomas discussed recent efforts in SEWRPC's coastal areas. The Root River Watershed Restoration Plan was completed. SEWRPC is in discussions for a similar plan for the Oak Creek Watershed. Thomas discussed the Burnham Canal restoration project and the Menomonee River fish passage.

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.

IX. Updates from Coastal Management Council

David Hart announced that UW Sea Grant will be undergoing a NOAA site review in mid-April. Any comments from the Council on the UW Sea Grant's outreach role would be welcome. David also submitted a planning grant to the University of Michigan's Graham Sustainability Institute's Great Lakes Water Levels Integrated Assessment Program.

Bill Schuster mentioned that the Door County SWCD has finished rebuilding five beaches. Door County SWCD is now moving to working on Tier II beaches. In addition, Horseshoe Bay Cave in Door County is now protected. The bat population continues to be white-nose syndrome free but most experts believe it's a matter of time before the disease infects the population. Bill brought up ongoing issues with groundwater quality in northeastern Wisconsin. It is a very serious problem.

Stephen Pienkos announced that there is a bill to ban the manufacture of products containing microbeads. The bill would require manufactures in the state to stop making products with microbeads by 2017. It would also require the sale of those products to stop completely by 2018.

Steve Galarneau mentioned that there is an upcoming Great Lakes Commission meeting. One topic to be discussed was the use of dredged material with transportation infrastructure.

Patty Hoeft mentioned that the Oneida Nation and Brown County have been working to educate communities in Brown County on CAFOs.

Sharon Cook asked about a budget item related to ballast water and DNR permitting. Steve mentioned it may have been the removal of a sunset clause. Sharon asked him to get back to the Milwaukee Mayor's office.

Ed Eberle announced that he attended a recent meeting of the Water Council. Ed also mentioned that Superior Days is next week in Madison.

Larry MacDonald mentioned that there are no ice caves yet at the Apostle Islands but the ice road to Madeline Island is open.

X. New Business

XI. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm

Next Scheduled Meeting: June 18, 2015. The date will have to be moved because of a conflict for the mayors.