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**MINUTES**

**WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING  
Bayfield County Board Room**

117 E 5th St  
Washburn, WI 54891  
(715) 373-6100

Tuesday, June 9, 2015  
9:45 AM

- I. Call to Order** by Mayor Larry McDonald, Chair, at 10:05 am
- II. Roll Call** Mayor Larry MacDonal, Mayor John Dickert, Ed Eberle, David Hart for Jim Hurley, Steve Galarneau, John Leiber for Representative Thomas Weatherston, Sharon Cook, Ken Leinbach, Fawn Billie for Patty Hoeft, William Schuster, Sheri Walz, Ervin Soulier
- Absent: Senator Robert Wirch
- 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 (February 19, 2015)** The Council approved the February 19, 2015 minutes.
- V. Welcome**
- Mark Abeles-Allison**, Administrator, Bayfield County welcomed the Council to the historic Bayfield County Courthouse.
- Scott Griffiths**, Mayor, City of Washburn, welcomed the Council to Washburn. He expressed gratitude for grants and invited the council, friends and family to spend time in Washburn.
- VI. Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
- VII. Action Item: Coastal Management Grant Priorities**
- Mike Friis discussed proposed changes. For Public Access and Historic Preservation projects, WCMP will require applicants to contact staff in advance to facilitate collection of information required by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Council members discussed the proposed change. Sharon Cook asked if the change is because NOAA is requiring more information – Mike confirmed that is the case. David Hart asked if changes at NOAA may have effects on WCMP. Mike didn't think that would be the case.

Bill Schuster asked if there is a sense of what the amount of grant funding would be for the next cycle. Mike said there will be some give and take: there may be some opportunity for competitive funds, such as resilience grants. Larry moved to adopt the Grant Priorities, Guiding Principles, and Process for

Reviewing Applications as described in the document, *Wisconsin Coastal Management Council: 2016-2017 Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant Priorities, Review Process and Guiding Principles.* The motion was seconded and passed.

## VIII. Reports

### A. NWRPC Activities

**Jason Laumann**, Senior Planner  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Communities are struggling with changes and cuts coming from the Legislature. Cuts to the DNR science staff will affect Lake Superior climate change studies, local climate change programs and plans, reviewing mining issues, scientific process for projects and studies, measurements. Communities are very concerned about the effects of proposed changes to NR 115.

Gogebic Taconite pulled out of the mining project. Iron prices are falling. It seems unlikely the area will be developed for mining in the near-term.

The Natural Heritage Area process hit a brick wall as Congress will not fund. Project partners are now looking at watershed only with a local designation.

The NWRPC area completed its first regional comprehensive plan in 50 years including a coastal component. As far as WCMP grant applications, the communities have difficulty in meeting match. There are many ideas and potential projects and will apply for more grants in the future.

David Hart mentioned the concept of "deep travel" and asked if there is an opportunity with the heritage trail project? Jason said there was and discussed Madeline Island. David asked about shoreland zoning and how it relates to the Great Lakes. He discussed WCMP-funded research done in the 1970s that helped lead to shoreland zoning and a model ordinance: will the changes to NR 115 have unintended consequences on setbacks on the Great Lakes. Jason said he is working with Iron County and Douglas County to integrate recession rates into their code. It is not clear if the proposed changes to NR 115 will affect setbacks for those counties. Bill Schuster said the changes would greatly affect communities in Door County. Ken asked if the Council has the power to make a statement on the changes. Mike said individually, council members can. It is unlikely there would be enough time to put together a statement from the entire council.

### B. Chequamegon Bay Region Projects and Freshwater Innovation Center

**Dr. Randy Lehr**, Professor  
Northland College

Toledo, OH won the drinking water award in 1994, but now cannot drink its Great Lakes water due to phosphorus, leaky septic systems, algae growth. The result for individuals is the loss of property values and for community's loss of tax base. These further results in the loss of population and young people. WCMP helped to fund the "Ecological Solutions Initiative."

Randy Lehr discussed in depth current research being conducted by Northland College in the Chequamegon Bay area. Research has been funded by several sources including UW Sea Grant and WCMP.

### C. Frog Bay Tribal National Park Update

**Chad Abel**, Treaty Natural Resources Administrator  
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Chad Abel discussed the history and tourism efforts at the park in a presentation titled, "Establishing the First Tribal National Park in the U.S." A green certified 130 foot suspension bridge is being constructed from a repurposed old dock. The park is 90 acres, but the trails are less than two miles. They are still looking at acquiring the neighboring parcel.

### D. Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Updates

**Mike Friis**, Manager  
Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

Mike and WCMP staff highlighted accomplishments from the written Program Updates.

## **IX. Updates from Coastal Management Council**

Ed Eberle, DOA noted that the parcel mapping project is moving forward. The new Geographic Information Officer, Jim, Giglierano, from Iowa, starts on July 1.

Racine Mayor John Dickert reported that a bike path project is continuing. Case agreed to \$1 million revamp of their area and opening to public. This will be the first public access to the area since predecessor companies acquired land in 1800's. Machinery Row projects are moving forward. There is also an increase of public access to areas that have never been available before.

Sheri Walz, DOT, reported that in the Governor's budget, the Harbor Assistance Program is cut from \$12 to \$1.3 million. Budget discussions are still ongoing. Discussed the most recent Great Lakes Maritime Task Force meeting.

William Schuster thanked Mike for helping with the Door/Kewaunee Legislative Days. He stated that white nose bat syndrome had reached Door County. Also, Lake Michigan continues to rise, causing a loss in shoreline.

Ken Leinbach recounted how the Urban Ecology Center uses Three Bridges Park as their outdoor science classroom to give kids hands-on experiences to explore waterways, native flora and fauna, and regional history.

Ervin Soulier, Bad River Band, discussed water quality plans and other efforts in the region. This includes USGS groundwater studies, USFWS sturgeon population surveys, meetings with Red Cliff and WDNR on commercial fishing plan, and beach monitoring program

John Leiber mentioned the legislature was still in session and budget process is ongoing.

David Hart thanked council members for their help in Sea Grant's site review in April. UW Sea Grant said that 82 proposals were reviewed. Jane Harrison is moving to North Carolina. Sea Grant's "Eat Wisconsin Fish" won an Apex Grand Award, a national award for communications that drew 1,900 applicants. Sea Grant continues to work on a water levels study funded by the University of Michigan Graham Institute's Integrated Assessments. They are looking at high bluff areas between Shorewood and Port Washington.

Fawn Billie discussed dead zones in Green Bay. She mentioned the Siler Creek preservation project.

Sharon Cook related that Paul Vornholt had been named Port of Milwaukee director.

Bayfield Mayor Larry McDonald reported that Bayfield had completed installing WCMP-funded interpretive signs. He mentioned he is on a steering committee looking at Great Lakes water levels and trying to identify solutions. He mentioned he could get copies of the report for those who are interested.

## **X. New Business**

William Schuster asked for more information on NR115. He asked about having a special meeting on the topic. Discussion followed. Larry suggested looking into the possibility of having a meeting.

## **XI. Adjournment**

**Next Scheduled Meeting:** Thursday, September 24, 2015

The meeting adjourned at 12:35

### **Site Visits:**

City of Washburn waterfront  
Houghton Falls Nature Preserve