



MINUTES

WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

Bayfield Lakeside Pavilion
2 East Front Street
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814 715-779-5712
Thursday, June 22, 2017

- I. **Call to Order** by Mayor Larry MacDonald, Chair, at 10:20 am
- II. **Roll Call:** Chair Larry MacDonald, Sharon Cook, Jim Hurley, Julie Kinzelman (for John Dickert, Steve Galarneau (by phone), Representative Joel Kitchens, Ken Leinbach, Patti Hoeft, Bill Schuster, Dawn Vick

Others Present: Mike Friis, Kate Angel, Todd Breiby, Adam Bechle, Lauren Leckwee, MaryAnn Lippert, Stamena Ivanov

Absent: Senator Wirch

- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved and approved
- IV. **Approval of Minutes (February 16, 2017):** Moved and approved.
- V. **Welcome: Mayor Gordon Ringberg,** City of Bayfield

Mayor Ringberg welcomed the Council to the City of Bayfield. He discussed the history of Bayfield and its port. Lake Superior has always been a focus for the City. Mayor Ringberg mentioned Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and how its funding has helped make Bayfield a special place.

- VI. **Public Comments:** None.

VII. **Action Item: Grant Priorities**

Mike Friis talked about priorities for the upcoming Request for Proposals and grant applications. Mike pointed out that the handout provided didn't have any major changes from the previous year. He emphasized the strengths that the federal program review members saw in the work WCMP does to improve quality of life, education, planning, and habitat protection.

Sharon asked about reaching out to groups and organizations that focus on underrepresented communities: Mike encouraged council members to do so. Jim commented that Sea Grant has done some similar outreach in their efforts. Dawn asked if there are any projects that we have wanted to fund that didn't fit into the review criteria, that would suggest expanding the priorities? Mike said staff work with applicants that have good ideas but may not review well (to find better partnerships or identify a fiscal agent, for example). Bill said he would hate to "dumb-down" the scoring guidelines: there is a danger of trying to rewrite the priorities to fit what didn't get funded as opposed to improving the quality of the project. Sharon asked about

the federal evaluators and their thoughts on the success rate. Mike said they were impressed by WCMP's partnerships and projects.

Jim mentioned UW Sea Grant Institute has some funding for program development and asked if WCMP has similar funding. Mike said WCMP has provided funding for many efforts – Harbor Towns, for example – in a similar, though informal way. Minnesota's Coastal Management Program gives out small (under \$2500 or so) grants to help develop projects and programs, called STAR grants, but there can be some significant administrative challenges to that structure of funding. Ken said WCMP does a really good job in helping programs to develop. He asked if staff or council members have ever tried to identify what is really needed in an area. Mike pointed out Two Rivers Water Trail as an example of that. Mike pointed out that the program's 40th anniversary will be in 2018: it may be a good time to try and feature the program through Coastal Awareness Month and other initiatives.

Sharon asked about education projects: the proposals have been all over the map and often do not include educational institutions (school districts, etc.). She would like to see applications that are directed at the entities that are in charge of education. Mike said Todd has worked to tighten up priorities and expectations in the education category.

Larry asked that if any council members know organizations or projects that may be a good fit for WCMP funding, please let potential applicants and WCMP staff know as soon as possible.

Motion to accept grant priorities carried.

VIII. Reports

A. Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Jason Laumann, Deputy Director, gave the council an overview on NWRPC's recent efforts. Most of his year was spent working on damage at Saxon Harbor, where there was about \$8 million worth of damage. (Iron County's annual operating budget is \$4.4 million.) WCMP provided funding for rapid response planning to address the damages and rebuild. It took about four months of outreach to wrap up that project into a bigger plan for the area. They were prepared to implement the plan, but an eagle nested in the area, which affects where the campground can be located. They are now looking at putting the campground back on the west side of the harbor, which will mean a smaller campground than they were hoping for. It is an ongoing process: construction will be in the summer of 2018 with the goal of opening in May, 2019.

Sharon asked if there was any planning or construction could have done to prevent or mitigate the damage that occurred? Jason said that the reconfiguration of the creek and the water volume were what caused much of the damage. FEMA will only pay to reconstruct in the previous footprint, limiting what the County can do. Kate mentioned a WCMP-funded project with Wisconsin Wetlands Association that is focusing on Iron County and case studies of wetlands and their impacts on flooding. Dawn said she had attended a meeting where Army Corps of Engineers staff expressed interest in looking at how the flooding in affected the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe. There may be some funding for the region available through USACOE. Jason said he would follow up.

Jason said WCMP provided some funding for a reprint of the Lake Superior Water Trail. NWRPC updated the inventory and map. The map is their most requested document.

The City of Superior Outdoor Recreation Plan is progressing. NWRPC has been working on the Iron County and Ashland County zoning ordinance updates. The Iron County Hazard Mitigation Plan project will begin soon. The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa plan to update their permits and ordinances.

NWRPC administers emergency assistance funding for private property owners. They are still receiving calls from people affected by the flooding. Regarding the scope of the damage, the access road and bridge are now gone, boat slips are gone, and 27 boat slips, sediment washed out the facilities including the campground. There was at least 15 inches of rain in less than 12 hours. Lidar data was recently collected in the area, with funding and coordination from the Land Information Program and Wisconsin Coastal Management Program.

- B. J. Philip Keillor Wisconsin Coastal Management Program/UW Sea Grant Institute Fellowship
Adam Bechle discussed his work as the first J. Philip Keillor fellow. The goal of the fellowship is to “link science and policy and to tackle coastal hazard challenges that face Wisconsin.” Adam talked about his work on the Coastal Processes Manual, the Lake Michigan Coastal Bluffs Integrated Assessment, and the NOAA Coastal Resilience grant application. Sharon asked that the minutes reflect the Council’s appreciation for the work that Adam has done.

- C. Update from Madeline Island
Lisa Potswald, Town of La Pointe’s administrator, talked about the town and the proposed changes to its dock. Kristian Larsen said that the project will help Madeline Island to deal with the constant flow of people and goods that come through the dock. There are 265 permanent residents on the island, with a large increase of population in the summer. The dock currently can’t accommodate the influx of tourists. Lisa mentioned that limited parking is a huge issue for the dock. Residents can’t get out of the lot if the ferry is in at the dock. There are safety issues with those driving and walking. The ferry has run year-round for the last two years. They are applying for a harbor assistance program grant. Coastal Management funding helped them to get documents together, including an engineering study.

Bill asked if they could implement a ferry tax, like a room tax, for using the dock. Lisa said it would be difficult to do because the ferry has a monopoly and their ridership information is confidential. They are looking at other avenues of funding. They have had conversations with locals in Washington Island about their ferry system, as well. Mike mentioned the Great Lakes Island Initiative: they have an upcoming meeting at Bear Island.

- D. Wisconsin Lake Superior Scenic Byway
Mary Nowakowski, past chair, discussed the history of the byway and current efforts. The concept goes back to 1977, with many stops and starts. IN 2010, a new group formed with the intention to become a scenic byway program. They went through an 18-month assessment process before becoming a scenic byway in 2012. The Lake Superior Scenic Byway consists of 73 miles along state highway 13 in Bayfield County. An intergovernmental council manages the council: it includes 13 governmental units. Mary described the effort as “cooperation on steroids.” Each community contributed a small amount of funding. They established a website with a volunteer webmaster. The group reached out to Jason Laumann to use the water trail map as a base map for their scenic byway map. After completing the maps, they would like to complete placing kiosks in each community. (They have four left to put up.) They developed a byway logo and are working with the City of Washburn to produce scenic byway banners along with the banners the city was planning on putting up. They cooperate closely with the Department of Transportation: they have an agreement with the secretary stating that any roadwork in the future will have paved roadways to accommodate bicyclists. They are looking at a historic building for a brick-and-mortar space. It is a completely volunteer organization. Mary thanked the council for the major source of funding. Chair MacDonald said the group has worked wonders. Chair MacDonald asked MaryAnn Lippert if she had any comments, and she encouraged the Intergovernmental Council to keep up the good work.

- E. Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Updates

Mike talked about the federal evaluation and thanked Lauren for organizing. Chair MacDonald said the reviewers seemed very interested and they wrote copious notes. Dawn mentioned that Joe's story map was very useful for highlighting projects in Lake Superior, as the reviewers didn't have time to visit the region. Jim mentioned he participated in the meetings in Ozaukee County. He appreciated how much the stakeholders were able to demonstrate as well as the opportunity for closed-door sessions with the reviewers.

Staff went through the printed updates. Jim brought up the fiscal year 2018 budget. The House subcommittees will be discussing it in the next couple of weeks. He wondered if the council or individuals could put something together. Mike emphasized staff would not be involved. Sharon made a motion the chair to work with council members to support funding for the Coastal Management Program. The motion was seconded and passed. Dawn Vick abstained.

IX. Updates from Coastal Management Council

Sharon Cook, Dan Egan, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reporter and author of *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*, is now in the UW Milwaukee School of Freshwater. She thanked the council and UW Sea Grant Institute for supporting an Ex Fabula storytelling event.

Julie Kinzelman, Samuel Myers Park restoration work continues. There is a Wisconsin Department of Tourism event next week that will bring journalists to the City of Racine. This council meeting will be the last for Julie to attend as a proxy, as Mayor Dickert has taken a new position.

Bill Schuster has seven months left on his sabbatical.

Rep. Joel Kitchens, DNR is working on rules for manure management. He expects a final report this fall. UW Oshkosh did a groundwater study for Kewaunee County: one surprise was how much contamination is from human waste with septic failures. DNR wants to do a Total Maximum Daily Load study for all rivers in Kewaunee. The City of Sturgeon Bay is undergoing a lawsuit with a proposed hotel development. The issues center on the public trust doctrine and ordinary highwater mark on filled land. He plans to work on legislation to develop clarification for OHWM on filled lands and would take opinions from council members as he does so. He would be interested in hearing from someone with a legal perspective at a future council meeting.

Larry MacDonald recently returned from Nicaragua. He is working with the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin, a non-profit group funded by the League of Municipalities.

Dawn Vick, Municipal Boundary Review is in the Division of Intergovernmental Relations at Department of Administration. They are looking at the future of local governments, preparing for things like annexation. Also, Demographic Services is in the division. There will be a new regional director for the northeast region of the state, Rachel Skenandore. Dawn thanked staff for their work.

Patti Hoefft has one year left in law school. The Oneida Nation of Wisconsin is working with Brown County and City of Green Bay on wetlands in the region. They have very good cooperation between the governments.

Jim Hurley, The panel and dates are set for review of funding applications to UW Sea Grant Institute. They have about forty-five to review. They are going under the assumption they will be level-funded. Nick Jordan got a "best poster" for IAGLR. Jim mentioned the Northern

Aquaculture Demonstration. The Wisconsin Water Resources Institute will be providing funding for groundwater efforts in the state.

Ken Leinbach visited the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory at the former Squires Golf Club in Port Washington. He remembered having a council meeting there and said it is a really great place to visit. Ken's book is bringing attention to the Urban Ecology Center. The City of Tiberias hosted three people from Urban Ecology for a tour of their region.

X. New Business: None.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Date TBD