



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Scott Walker, Governor
Scott A. Neitzel, Secretary
Dawn Vick, Division Administrator

MINUTES

WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

Henry Drees Community Center
600 Pine Street
Peshtigo, Wisconsin 54157
Thursday, September 21, 2017
10:30 AM

- I. **Call to Order** by Larry MacDonald, Chair, at 10:32 AM
- II. **Roll Call:** Chair Larry MacDonald, Steve Galarneau, Kate Angel (for Patti Hoeff), Sharon Cook, Mike Friis, Dawn Vick, Bill Schuster, Jim Hurley, Stamen Ivanov (for Representative Kitchens)

Others Present: Chuck Druckrey, Rachel Skenandore, Trista Hobbs, Dave Zahn, Angela Kowalzek-Adrians, Gary Motkowski, Lauren Leckwee, Joe Dwyer, Adam Bechle, Todd Breiby

- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved and approved.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes (June 22, 2017):** Moved and approved. (Bill Schuster noted that he plans on staying on sabbatical beyond seven months. Sharon asked that two typos on the Program Updates document to be corrected.)
- V. **Welcome: Dave Zahn,** City Peshtigo, Parks and Recreation Department, welcomed the Council on behalf of mayor Cathi Malke.
- VI. **Public Comments**

Rachel Skenandore introduced herself. She joined the Division of Intergovernmental Relations at the Department of Administration as the director of the DOA Northeast Region Office. (As MaryAnn Lippert is the director for the Northern Region Office.) Rachel acts as a resource connecting local communities and the State Government.

VII. **Action Item: 2017 Wisconsin Coastal Management Council Meeting Dates**

Chair Larry MacDonald confirmed the following dates work for him and asked council members to put the dates on their calendars:

Thursday, February 15, 2018
Thursday, June 21, 2018
Thursday, September 20, 2018

VIII. **Reports**

A. Peshtigo River Viewing Platform

Dave Zahn and Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist for Marinette County LWCD, gave the council an update on the viewing platform, funded in part with a recent Coastal grant.

There are several project partners, including City of Peshtigo, BPM Incorporated, and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS). The property is owned by WPS. There are plans for trails, and an ADA platform. The site is popular with fisherman: sometimes hundreds will use the site. WPS and BPM allow anglers to park and/or use the land. The project will dovetail nicely on city plans for a park, the River Recreation Park. It is an important segment for sturgeon spawning and walleye fishing. Sixty-five percent of all known sturgeon spawning is supported in this segment of the river. The viewing platform would be an excellent resource education-wise. The project started as a utility/pipe chase connecting a pulp mill and a pipe chase crossing the river. Pipe removed, concrete pillars remained (2014). Instead of removing, city recommended repurposing them for the viewing platform. WPS maintains some facilities, parking lots, etc.

A 2015 Wisconsin Coastal Management Program grant allowed for planning and design. The plans call for utilizing three of four existing concrete pillars. The platform will stretch out 160 feet over the river. They are working with a county information and education specialist to develop educational training. The project is located within walking

distance from the school. Peshtigo has one of the few remaining undisturbed estuaries. Also they will focus on the history of the working river, lumber mill dam - first dam on the river. The final site will include Peshtigo fire history, linking with the Peshtigo museum. Also at the site is the Peshtigo cemetery with about 350 unidentified victims mass grave - 1871.

They are starting Phase II of the project: they have an application to DNR Stewardship and will also apply for WCMP funding. Project partners have committed \$86,000, purchased benches, and donor wall with inscribed granite plaques.

Steve asked if there are any concerns with soil contaminants. (None that they know of: they looked into it as part of their Stewardship application.) Sharon asked about the sturgeon. (The fish won't be disturbed by the project.) Jim asked how old the pillars are. (About seventy-five years old.) Sharon - who owns the railroad? (It's unclear.) Schuster - how close to the water is this and how does it impact fish congregation? (All the fish congregate there, and water depth varies based on rainfall. DNR/WPS requires a certain water level - somewhere between 10-15ft above the water.)

B. Updates from BLRPC

Angela Kowalzek-Adrians, Natural Resources Planner Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, provided an update on BLRPC's recent efforts. A lakeshore recreation study in Kewaunee Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties was coastal funded. BLRPC is looking at what they can do to help these counties transition into tourism from departing industry. They are hoping to get an idea of what users want to do in the coastal counties — to make recommendations to the counties, businesses, etc.

Angela talked about the WCMP-funded Twin Rivers Water Trail project. A project East Twin River and one on the West Twin, coming out of Two Rivers, are referred to as the Twin Rivers Water Trail. BLRPC is assessing what access points are available and where they are needed, as well as how to market the water trails.

DOT funded, under a former Coastal funded trail inventory project, goal is to do a similar project with DOT. Trail identification and linkages. BLRPC is taking video with a Go-Pro to have images for potential visitors to see what it looks like before heading out. They will use the results to help connect a visual record of the trails.

Phragmites treatment in Brown County concluded a GLRI-funded, 3-year project. They treated and managed 1000+ acres. They are going to do another 600. BLRPC is a finalist for more funding for Kewaunee county for a similar project.

BLRPC received funding through the USFS to replace ash trees. Set up as a mini-sub grant so communities could apply for small grants. They received about \$90,000 and did many tree plantings this year. They are for 2018 funding, as well. Sharon asked what kind of trees were planted? Angela said anything but maples: they wanted a good mix. Sharon suggests they contact the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

BLRPC working with the city of Algoma to improve their water trail public access. Angela would like to do a water trail on the Ahnapee River. BLRPC is working with the communities on a WCMP grant application.

BLRPC is working with several communities on county Comprehensive Plan updates. Manitowoc will have a WCMP grant application to do their update. BLRPC has applications for FEMA hazard mitigation plan updates for several counties. They are working with many communities on zoning ordinance updates.

Bill suggested, when working with Kewaunee, consider looking at ordinances to control phragmites. Door County is doing this.

Sharon asked about the effectiveness of water levels on phragmites treatment? Angela - high water levels reduce the acres of phragmites. Which should help with treating. BLRPC wants to change mindsets about seeing phragmites and being complacent.

Steve asked if, with the water trails, we've quantified the number of increased users and visits. (Yes, the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or SCORP, is updated every five years and quantifies the information. There has been a big increase in paddling.)

C. Public Access Inventory and Coastal Heritage Tourism in Wisconsin

Joe Dwyer, NOAA Coastal Management Fellow Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, discussed his fellowship project. Joe discussed the Fellowship placement process and his current work in Wisconsin. His project is focusing on creating a comprehensive public access guide for Lake Superior and Lake Michigan and creating a digital and interactive application for Wisconsin Coastal visitors. Joe displayed the current version of the WCMP Grants Story Map. Joe also showed the current status of the public inventory database.

Sharon asked why all of the grants are not shown in the map. Mike and Joe responded that some grants do not display well geographically and that the purpose of this map is to highlight some impactful grants. Joe also points out there is a link in the Story Map to the whole collection of grants.

D. Coastal Resiliency Project: Improving Economic Security in Coastal Wisconsin

Adam Bechle, Postdoc Associate Wisconsin Coastal Management Program/UW Sea Grant Institute, discussed the upcoming three-year NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants project "Improving Economic Security in Coastal Wisconsin". Set to start on October 1, this project will help counties and municipalities in southeastern Wisconsin plan and prepare for coastal hazards. Wisconsin was one of 167 applications. The project received \$840,000 in funding, with a 2:1 match requirement. Adam said project activities will include evaluating shoreline erosion rates, creating educational resources, organizing regular meetings about coastal hazards, and identifying and funding local resilience opportunities. The project will focus on Southeastern Wisconsin, developing partnerships in those communities. Adam also provided an update on water levels in Lake Michigan and Lake Superior.

Steve asked Adam to talk at a later time about how to best get DNR's involvement to maximize benefits within the state. Bill commented on the fluctuating lake levels which change sediment erosion and deposition patterns, citing a case along the Bay of Green Bay where beach width has grown rather than shrunk with the current high-water levels.

E. Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Updates

Mike and staff went through the program updates given in the meeting materials. Dawn asked staff to make sure Rachel is aware of events in the region. Steve - wants to talk about how to engage conversations about navigation and dredge materials. Mike said he sees ways to build on WCMP's current projects as well as the work the Army Corps of Engineers has planned. Todd - dredging team meetings want to incorporate additional stakeholders and these issues too. Sharon - have the alderman and county board supervisors in Milwaukee County gotten the chronicle? (Staff will check.)

IX. **Updates from Coastal Management Council**

Steve Galarneau: came from the Great Lakes Commission meeting in Duluth. They passed a resolution on infrastructure with the intent for the Commission to get on record that across the diverse landscape. There is a common interest in having a conversation about infrastructure - not just roads and bridges but also maritime. They also discussed Asian carp. USACE has a proposal on how to look at a lock & dam in Illinois. Menomonee River Area Of Concern (AOC) actions have all been taken; Sheboygan river AOC is closer, a lot of cleanup was/is involved. Steve really wants to be part of the coastal processes conversations. We need to take advantage of the overlaps in efforts and needs.

Sharon Cook: Fund for Lake Michigan application process is next week. Sharon would like more information from the public education work ("TOAD") work done in Peshtigo. Sharon mentioned an October 7 harbor event being held by the School of Freshwater Science.

Larry MacDonald: Apples! (Thanks, Larry :) At the request of the Council, Larry sent letters to the representatives about the importance of coastal funding and the impacts on the communities. No negative responses. Thanks to staff and Dawn.

Dawn Vick: DIR gets busy as we do all the things that don't really fit in other places in state government. Coastal has made itself so relevant to numerous partners and agencies across the state and even nation. DIR deals with people who sometimes don't like what we are doing. Mike will attend a public meeting on the National Marine Sanctuary. Dawn thanked staff. State budget will be signed tomorrow. Keeping a close eye on the Federal budget to make sure this program lines up and is funded years from now.

Bill Schuster: Last time, Kitchens brought up the Ordinary High-Water Mark and other issues regarding the public trust. Schuster predicts significant action in the courts regarding OHWM. He wants to discuss this issue at the February 15th meeting. He would like to have an impartial speaker at the next council meeting to talk about the public trust doctrine.

Bill mentioned that on a recent road trip in Montana, there are mandatory road stops for vehicles towing boats or trailers for invasive species. Boats must be inspected with permits before putting boats in the water - fines apply and will be stopped.

Jim Hurley: Clean Bay Backers - tour on Monday. Jim mentioned Julia Noordyk and her work and recent green infrastructure publication. Sea grant received a bump in funding from the house. Thanks to support of the stakeholders for restoring the program. Sea Grant is prepared to see a zero budget again next year in the federal budget. Sea Grant is going to fund 2 sediment transport projects, and 3 projects on Green Bay - an issue area with PCB. Had a joint call with MN-WI, have a project scheduled to look at rip currents in the south shore of Lake Superior.

Stamena Ivanov: - Unfortunately, with the delay in budget, they weren't able to present today on the public trust doctrine issues. They are hoping to have that discussion at a future council meeting.

X. **New Business:** None

XI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:04PM

Next Scheduled Meeting: June 21, 2018, location TBD