



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tony Evers, Governor
Joel Brennan, Secretary
Dawn Vick, Division Administrator

MINUTES

WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

SOEI Northland College
1411 Ellis Avenue
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806
(715) 682-1223
Thursday, June 21, 2018
9:45 AM

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Roll Call:** Chair Larry MacDonald, Ken Leinbach, Jim Hurley, Dawn Vick, Mike Friis, Matthew Rohrbeck (for Representative Kitchens), Greg Coulthurst (for Bill Schuster), Sharon Cook
- Others: Brandon Hofstedt, James Langdon, Joe Dwyer, Todd Breiby, Kate Angel, Lauren Leckwee, Adam Bechle, Randy Lehr, Debra Lewis, Mark Abeles-Allison, Gordon Ringberg, Mic Isham, Gene Clark, Eric Peterson
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved and Approved.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes (February 15, 2018):** Moved and Approved
- V. **Welcome:** **Randy Lehr**, Co-Director, Northland College Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation
Debra Lewis, Mayor, City of Ashland

Randy had previously presented to the council in 2015 the county courthouse in Washburn. In 2015, the Burke Center had just been created with a 10-million-dollar endowment. The center expanded the science, research, and communications focus with the addition of Peter Annin. Peter has been with Northland and Center for the last 3 years. Northland has a new president, Marvin.

Funding provided by WCMP has been used to get a sense of what the intense storms mean for the area. Ken asked about the dry spells. Randy said they usually get the same amount of annual precipitation, but it comes all in a short period of time and then it is relatively dry.

Sharon asked about the 1960 numbers that were used in the past? Randy replied we have a lot more data now and a longer time series. There are some things in the 60s data that might be have been missed but there are many trends in the long-term data sites.

Jim asked if changes like this have a lake level detection? Gene Clark added that they are more cyclical, a person will not see a ½ foot rise in lake levels. Randy replied the wind patterns shift and cause localized deep spots with the seiche.

Debra Lewis welcomed the Council to Ashland. The Council helps Ashland complete projects that the City might not be able to do on their own. Ashland County ranks at the top of the statewide poverty rates, but they do have a treasure trove of natural resources. The community lifestyle depends on protecting the resources. The City is extremely grateful for our funding. WCMP has been a good partner. The City recognizes it and appreciates it.

Mayor Gordon Ringberg thanks the Program and recognizes that it is the Lake that brings tourists to their communities.

Mic Isham, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, also welcomed the Council. Mic said that if people can come up here and see what work is being done they are more apt to protect it. Mic also offered to help fill the open tribal spot on the council.

VI. Public Comments: None

VII. Action Item: Coastal Management Grant Priorities

I. Sharon asked if there were any changes. Mike confirmed there have been no changes.

Jim asked if there were any comments from applicants that didn't get funded? Mike said yes and that provides an opportunity for education. Staff strongly encourages each applicant to contact the program to discuss their proposal before applying.

Moved and approved.

VIII. Reports

A. Great Lakes Island Coalition Brandon Hofstedt, Associate Professor of Sustainable
Community Development, Northland College

Islands struggle with being cut off from resources. In Maine, 300 inhabited islands in the past dropped to 15. Seventeen Great lakes islands inhabited year-round with 50 people or more. Twenty thousand people in sum on the islands, seasonal residents 50,000, visitors in the millions.

Island Coalition is very viable. Twelve islands formally committed to joining in a charter expected to be ratified later this summer. Regular monthly phone calls with the islands. The coalition can help connect one island that has a problem with another that has a solution. The second summit of the coalition was held on Madeline Island.

Sharon asked how is it funded? Through dues? Brandon – no dues structure, private funding from an org in Michigan.

Greg asked who is the Washington island contact? John Raider was but he passed away, Joel Gunnlaugsson has taken over.

B. NWRPC Activities Updates
Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Jason Laumann could not make the meeting. He provided written updates that WCMP staff shared with the Council.

C. Iron County Activities Eric Peterson, Administrator
Iron County Forestry and Parks

Eric Peterson provided an overview of the past coastal grants from 2012-2019.

Saxon Harbor Pavilion (2012) replaced old rustic building

Asset based community Development Plan (2015) – worked closely with NWRPC. Was to find a way to grow existing assets and develop new opportunities. Also includes rebuilding Saxon Harbor after the 2016 storm.

Saxon harbor survey (2016) – direct result of the 2016 storm. Included a survey for public opinion. NWRPC heavily involved. Twenty-five questions, out for 30 days, received nearly 1200 responses, with 45% Iron County residents and 55% non-Iron County residents. Survey was for people who use the marina facility. Up until that point, the best data NWRPC had received was ~500 responses. Three hundred fifty typed out comments in the “what do you think” box.

Regional trail – provides extension from MI Iron Belle trail into WI. Highlights importance of the Montreal River Watershed.

CELCP grant – originally began as a potential access to relocated campground. Directly east of the Saxon Harbor facility. Issues with bald eagle nest. Purchased with Knowles-nelson DNR funds and Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program funding.

Saxon harbor public access/beach study – approved plan, in process of trying to build it now. Includes 104 ft bridge over Oronto Creek with 12 feet clearance. Going to lose some slips with a total of 81, but it will accommodate the boats better. After the storm on Monday, more damage was done but not that bad. At most, the county will have to remove some gravel but the worst outcome would be if the sediment made it back into the marina after the USACE dredged it. It will have to be re-dredged and that is expensive.

Hurley asked what happened with the 2016 storm. Eric – most county highway bridges are built to a 100 year flood standard. The bridge worked exactly the way that it was supposed to. What happened in 2016, the water carried a bunch of trees and couldn't pass through the bridge as it was designed. FEMA says they can't change the channel location so the County made the floodplain larger, the bridge is before the river corner and not after it. The bridge is higher and better. Eric believes that the new design would have handled the Monday rain perfectly...had it been completed.

Mark Abeles-Allison asked do they have builders risk insurance? Eric – we have it and we are going to look into all the other options

- D. Bayfield County Activities Mark Abeles-Allison, Administrator
Bayfield County

Mark Abeles-Allison discussed projects in Bayfield County.

Hydro Atlas project: Bayfield county worked with the Wisconsin geological survey to help create the atlas. County wants it for planning purposes...ex: where to put livestock operations, where to put business, etc, where is the best place for something from a water perspective?

Siskiwit Falls – Mike provided overview of the acquisition. They closed 2-3 weeks ago. County may come to the program for some access funding in the future. Mark told Mike that the county also offers an access grant to the towns. Mike would be interested in seeing how WCMP can help leverage some of those dollars.

Larry mentioned there are no stoplights in all of Bayfield County. And highway 2 is a complete disaster.

- E. WI Great Lakes Chronicle James Langdon, Administrator
Compendium DOA Division of Enterprise Operations

Jim described the Wisconsin Great Lakes Chronicle, an annual publication with essays about Great Lakes topics. The Compendium will include all of the essays that have been published, from 2002-2018. WCMP is working with Wisconsin Historical Society Press in printing and distributing the book, to be published in September.

Sharon suggests they do a presentation at the Library conference in September.

There will be 1200 hardcopies and 1000 soft copies. It will be distributed through a “sheltered workshop,” a DOA program that assists disabled workers.

Sharon asked, do the TAC members know that their reviews are considered public record? Hurley – once a project is funded, that application, and the reviews are considered public record.

Public Records Training

Jim discussed the State Public Records Board and an Executive Order requiring state boards and employees receive training on public records retention. Jim shared a video with the council. Dawn asked how often the council needs to repeat the training? Jim said yearly.

- F. Wisconsin Coastal Management Mike Friis, Manager
Program Updates Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

Staff gave updates, supporting the printed updates provided to the Council.

IX. Updates from Coastal Management Council

Larry thanks staff for all we do. We are lucky to be in a committee that gets stuff done and staff makes it happen.

Dawn – the program is so successful, that in times like these (rain events) it is easy for our staff to get on the phone and ask the local people how they are doing and how we can help. We have relationships and connections that we can help ease the minds of the locals during tumultuous times.

Greg – Bill Schuster mentioned there is a celebration/summer tour at Dunes Lake on June 28th. Land tour featuring the Ridges Sanctuary. Sea tour will be in dunes lake looking at the recent updates/parking lots etc. Jim Langdon – Greg we could use a couple great photos for the chronicle.

Hurley asked Gene Clark to talk about the fellow. Gene – the new Coastal Hazards Fellow starts on the 23rd of July. Yi Liu is a PhD student at Virginia Tech, with a specialty in coastal flooding with storm surges. Sharon – mentions the women's engineering group in Milwaukee. Hurley – they will have 4 fellows this year. One at WCMP, one at Wisconsin Geological Natural History Survey and 2 at DNR. Going to have 2019 Knauss Fellow. And a fellow at CSO. Planning the fall Sea Grant advisory meeting for September 6 with the convocation after.

X. New Business: None

XI. Adjournment: 1:03pm

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, September 20, 2018

Site Visits: City of Ashland waterfront tour