

**IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program**  
**Coastal Advisory Board Meeting**

Wednesday December 16, 2015 – 10:00 AM CT  
LaPorte County – City of Michigan City

Emergency Management Conference Room  
100 E. Michigan Blvd. Michigan City, IN 46360

**Attendees:**

**Voting:** Shannon Eason (Parks & Recreation), Christine Livingstone (IDT), Steve Barker (NIPSCO), Tiffany Tolbert (Indiana Landmarks), Kim Swift (IDNL), Jeffery Katz (Porter County), Tim Kingsland (Lake County), Paul Labus (Local Natural Resource Management), Kenneth Purze (Chamber of Commerce (LaPorte Co.))

**Non-Voting:** Kathy Luther (NIRPC), Leslie Dorworth (IISG), Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS), Ashley Snyder (IDEM), Young Choi (Universities)

**Non-Board Members:** Sergio Mendoza (City of Hobart), Dalia Zygus (Citizen)

**LMCP Staff:** Mike Molnar, Maggie Byrne, Kacey Alexander, Dorreen Carey, Derek Nimetz

- Old Business not discussed because there were not enough voting members for a Quorum
- New Business

- **Guest Presentation**

**Hobart Neighborhood Sustainability Plan – S. Mendoza: (Presentation available on website)**

The Coastal Program is currently funding the Hobart Neighborhood Sustainability plan as a small grant. They were awarded \$4,000 for the project which is set to conclude on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2015.

The presentation involved the process the City underwent in order to develop the plan which can be used to improve neighborhood sustainability. First Hobart was divided into Neighborhood Tracts. The divisions were made based on characteristics such as streets, waterbodies, railroad lines, and utility corridors. In total 15 tracts were created. These tracts were then divided into 74 neighborhood groups. These groups were then further divided into smaller neighborhoods. These boundaries were determined by grouping the parcels to look like neighborhoods. There were 216 in total created.

Once the neighborhoods were identified, benchmarks for environmental sustainability were created. The benchmarks are as follows:

- Environmental Hazards
- Floodplains, Floodways, and the Built Environment within
- Impervious Surfaces
- Land Cover and Open Space
- Managed Lands, Parks, Trails & Recreational Facilities
- Septic Lines, Facilities, and Waterwells
- Tree Canopy
- Impaired Waterways

Once the necessary data was acquired, the project was prepared. This was accomplished by clipping Hobart's boundaries and then forming the boundary of each neighborhood. A map was created based on each of the benchmarks. After this was accomplished, the problem areas were identified and possible solutions were able to be considered.

- **LMCP Year in Review**

**Grants – M. Byrne: (Presentation available on website)**

Several slides comparing the number of Grant workshops in 2014 to the amount conducted in 2015 were shown. The numbers are just a comparison, as she also speaks with applicants in a one-on-one capacity before and after they complete their application. The amount requested for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 funding cycles were mentioned along with the number of applications, full proposals and awarded projects. There are currently 48 Pass-thru grant projects open. Unobligated funds from past years will be allocated towards projects which may need more funds.

Maggie touched on the CELCP program and what has been accomplished this year. The Cain Property, which included money that was re-allocated, will be closing soon. The remaining amount will need to be re-allocated again.

Beginning this year, Maggie has become a part of the South Shore Funders. The South Shore Funders is a group of regional funders working together to provide a structure to enhance their impact in Northwest Indiana. The group meets monthly to work on their goals and have recently hosted a roundtable for nonprofits where each of the funders discussed their organization and what types of projects they funded.

During this year Maggie has also been working on the LMCP “Funding Referral Service”. Currently, she has completed the needs assessment, as well as the basic outline of what the service will look like. She is still working on compiling, synthesizing, and packaging it in a user-friendly way.

#### **Non-Point Program – D. Koch (Presentation on Website):**

DJ has been working on creating fact sheets regarding the grant projects that did not currently have one. He also arranged them on the website by category. He also is working with the communications department to update the map on our website. Additionally, DJ created project summaries for grant projects 2010 to 2014. Lastly, he has been sorting, and scanning past grant projects.

#### **Non-Point Program – D. Carey (Presentation on Website):**

Dorreen described her activities that included the coordination and collaboration with other organizations. 6217 describes the NOAA/EPA requirements on how we need to address non-point source issues in Lake, Porter and LaPorte County. All of the requirements necessary for complete approval for our non-point source program have not yet been satisfied. During the Indiana Coastal Program 312 Evaluation Findings, LMCP must develop and submit a work plan with a timeline for meeting the outstanding conditions.

The measures that were approved in 2015 are:

- Nutrient Management
- Erosion & Sediment Control
- Additional Management Measures
- Technical Assistance

Remaining Unapproved Management Measures are:

- Pesticide Management
- Grazing Management
- Septic System Inspection
- Protection of Wetlands & Riparian Areas
- Enforceable Policies

In addition, Dorreen has been reaching out to coastal communities and water quality partners for improved septic system inspection and maintenance. Focus groups on septic system operation and maintenance awareness were conducted. They were designed to help determine an owner's knowledge of septic systems, as well as gauge owner preference for septic system information style and mode of communication. Based on the results of these activities, the Septic System Coordination Work Group will act in an advisory capacity to provide input and implementation assistance for a Coastal Septic System Outreach and Education program.

During SepticSmart Week September 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 43 participating governments, agencies, organizations and individuals distributed EPA SepticSmart education brochures. Outreach communications for this event were provided through the web, Newspaper, Radio, Blogging, mailings, television and outdoor banners.

#### **Resource Management – D. Nimetz: (Presentation on Website):**

Derek spent much of his time out in the field on natural area restoration, natural preserve management, and rare species monitoring. Thanks to Save the Dunes, Derek worked on a project at the Indiana Dunes to help save and restore about 32 acres of savanna. During the winter months, much of the woody vegetation that was growing in the area was burned. The purpose of this is to improve the habitat for both plants and animals. If the area becomes woodier, certain species will no longer nest in that location.

Much restoration takes place at Moraine and Dunes Prairie Nature Preserve. Derek and his staff work to maintain the efforts that had previously been performed and control the woody areas. This area is scheduled to receive prescribed fire in the spring of 2016.

Derek does out outreach work by leading hikes through different nature preserves. During these hikes, he points out different plants and wildlife to fellow hikers. He also leads discussions regarding the importance of nature along with the mission of both the Coastal Program and Nature Preserves. Derek is always available for technical assistance help for Coastal area projects.

#### **Operations – K. Alexander: (Presentation available on website):**

Kacey receives Financial Reports that are received every quarter. Once received, she reviews them and works with Grantees on any issues that may exist. After both the financial and progress reports are approved, the Grantee is paid. Along with this, she receives and sends Grant Agreements and amendments through the signature process. During the year, Kacey also worked on purchasing necessary items such as supplies from Staples, the CAB Field trip bus and chairs for the Dunes office. She also coordinated the lunch boxes for the field trip and made arrangements for CAB meeting locations.

Currently the website is undergoing changes. It is being streamlined to be more user friendly. The links page was organized into sections based on type, the shoreline Newsletter link was combined with both the group reports and publications. We have also made the sidebar more LMCP specific with the Top FAQs.

**Program Management – M. Molnar: (Presentation available on website):**

Mike briefly spoke about LMCP's funding. Program funding overtime is lower. The federal funding slightly increased from 2013-2015. During 2015, we received our program review that revealed that we were meeting expectations. It also highlighted project areas as an accomplishment, a 6217 necessary action, and a recommendation regarding staffing. With the help of the federal findings, the program was able to add a new intermittent position, revise and post the Coastal Planner position, revise the Special Projects Coordinator position, and reclassify the Operations Specialist position.

During this year, the Coastal Advisory Board Manual was also revised so that all positions were defined as two years. The stakeholder definitions were also revised for a few of the positions and the attendance policy was clarified.

Lastly, Mike showcased the new and improved Shipwrecks website. It features a new models page that allows the user the ability to toggle between different views. All changes and additions can be found on the website at: [www.indianashipwrecks.org](http://www.indianashipwrecks.org)

**Announcements:**

- Next Meeting - **February 17, 2016 - Informational Meeting** - 10:00 AM CT  
Crown Point Community Library 122 N. Main Street Crown Point, IN 46307