

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday April 21st 2016

6:30pm CST

Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

1000 Riverwalk Portage, IN 46368

Attendees:

Voting: Shannon Eason (Park and Recreation/Michigan City Parks), Paul Labus (Local Natural Resource Management/TNC), Richard Morrisroe (Citizen at Large - Lake), Jeffrey Katz (Porter County City or Town / Beverly Shores), Tiffany Tolbert (Indiana Landmarks/Historical)

Non-Voting: Kathy Luther (NIRPC), Leslie Dorworth (IISG), Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS)

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

Public: William Powers (Long Beach Planning Commission), Royce Williams (Michigan City Police Department), Jenny Orsburn (Portage Parks)

Old Business:

February meeting minutes were not approved and elections of officers were not held due to a lack of quorum.

Committee/Program Reports:

Program Update & Outreach - Mike Molnar

We are still working with NOAA on our 2016 funding. It looks like we will be receiving a \$58,000 increase from last year. We still are not receiving any Nonpoint Source funding.

Due to a hiring freeze, the request to hire a new Nonpoint Source Coordinator is on hold. Once the agency reaches a certain headcount we will be able to have the job posted, and we have been told by Human Resources that the position should post on June 1st. We will let you if there are any changes or updates.

Kaitlyn McClain is continuing to work on the needs assessment for the Coastal Training program. She is currently at a NOAA Project Design and Evaluation workshop today and tomorrow, which is why she is not here today.

We are currently working with EPA on the next three years of funding for the LaMP grant. This assists with staff capacity funding and other programmatic needs.

The staff is still collecting events for June Coastal Awareness month to post on the website. If you do have an event, please submit it.

Additionally, we are working with our Artist partner Barb Labus on the next Ecosystem's poster which will be Savanna. It is set to be unveiled this fall.

The program staff presented Tiffany Tolbert with a signed print of Lake Michigan in commemoration of two years as Chair of the Coastal Advisory Board.

Nonpoint/Septic – Dorreen Carey

A submission was made to NOAA on the measures that have not yet been approved. Dorreen has received confirmation that the Wetlands protection measure has been approved. The Septic System measure was not approved. Dorreen is currently working on when the next Septic System meeting will be.

LaPorte County has passed an ordinance that requires a certified inspector to inspect a septic system after a house sale. Additional ordinances are currently being considered by LaPorte County. Porter County is looking at adopting an ordinance similar to LaPorte. At this time, Lake County is not actively considering such an ordinance.

Grants – Maggie Byrne

All but one of the 306A projects from the 2015 funding cycle have been approved by NOAA. The City of Hobart - Lake George Fishing Pier and Kayak Access is the project that is awaiting approval due to NEPA review.

May 31st is the next Grant Committee Meeting to discuss the 2017 funding cycle priority setting submissions and to consider potential top priorities for each grant category.

Coastal Board Public Input Priority Setting Process – Maggie Byrne

Basics of Grants Program – LMCP provides technical and financial resources and coordination with partners. Program Area is based on the historic Lake Michigan Watershed. The Program makes available approximately \$600,000 annually for pass thru grants in partnership with NOAA. Since 2002, the LMCP has awarded over \$10 million dollars in grants for over 300 projects.

Eligible applicants include units of local government, area wide agencies, state agencies, colleges, universities, conservancy districts, Port Authorities, Basin commissions, and Non-profits with a few restrictions. The maximum amount that can be requested for a land acquisition project is \$150,000. For low cost construction projects the maximum amount is \$100,000, and the maximum amount is \$50,000 for all other categories.

Grants are undertaken on a reimbursement basis with a 1:1 match rate. The projects are always required to be finished within an 18 month time frame. Extensions can be granted in certain circumstances. The required matching funds can be in the form of cash (donations), in-kind funds, and volunteer time. The match can originate from local, state, and private funds. No federal funds can be used as match.

Ineligible projects: Infrastructure, recreational facilities, wetland or habitat restoration (that is required as mitigation or is a permit requirement), contamination clean-up, construction on privately owned lands, trail construction, parking lots, and roads.

Eligible Project Types:

- Low Cost Construction (physical change in property),
- Land Acquisition (fee simple, lease, etc.)
- Education & Outreach (improve connection between natural, cultural, or historical resources of Lake Michigan)
- Planning - Coordination - Management (assist communities in coordination or management of natural, cultural, or historical resources in the area)
- Applied Research (studies that produce knowledge for cultural resources with demonstrated need)
- Emerging Issues (education and outreach, planning & coordination, or applied research – what is a hot topic now?)

Grant Priorities: certain project proposals may receive bonus points; others that do not meet priorities can still apply as long as the project fits the requirements of the RFP. The top priority may receive up to 10 bonus points. As of this year, there will no longer be any secondary priorities.

2017 Grant Program Timeline:

- April 20th – Public Input and submissions accepted until May 20th
- June 15th - Public meeting. CAB votes on priorities
- September 16th – Pre-proposals due
- September - October – Grants Committee reviews applications
- October 19th – Coastal advisory board votes on applications
- December 16th - Full applications due
- January 2017 – reviewed, scored, ranked by the Technical Advisory Board
- February 2017 - Director selection & approval of projects
- March 2017 - Projects submitted to NOAA
- August/September 2017 - Projects likely startup

This timeline, as well as much other information about the grants program may be found here:
<https://secure.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/6044.htm>

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the LMCP Grant Specialist, Maggie Byrne, if you have questions about the LMCP grant program.

Suggestions for priorities should be brief and general. You may make as many suggestions as you wish. Please write suggestions for priorities on the flip charts located around the room. If you wish to provide more information after tonight you can by:

Email – mbyrne@dnr.in.gov or any other staff member

Call – Maggie Byrne at 219-983-9912

Online survey - www.surveymonkey.com/r/58V9GFS

In person

All input must be received by May 20th 2016.

Next Meeting – June 15th, 2016 @ 6:30 PM CST – Porter County –
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
6100 Southport Road
Portage, IN 46368