

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Informational Meeting

Wednesday February 18, 2015

10am CST

Sunset Hill Farm County Park - Program Center Building

775 Meridian Road Valparaiso, IN 46383

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Voting: Christine Livingston (Dunes Tourism), Dan Plath (NiSource/Industry), Bob Daum (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore), Kris Krouse (SHLT/Local Natural Resource Management), Tiffany Tolbert (Indiana Landmarks/Historical), Ken Purze (Citizen at Large/LaPorte County), Nicole Barker (Save the Dunes/Environmental Advocacy), Geof Benson (Porter County), Frank Seilheimer (LaPorte County), Richard Morrisroe (Lake County Planner)

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

Non-Board Members: Maddie Grimm (Taltree), Mia Goulding (Taltree), Kara Salazar (Purdue), Brandon Beatty (Purdue), Jarrod Doucette (Purdue), Natalie Conlon (NiSource)

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

Old Business:

October 15th, 2014 and December 17th, 2014 meeting minutes approved without discussion.

New Business:

Informational Presentations:

IL IN Sea Grant - Tipping Points and Indicators presented by Kara Salazar and Jarrod Doucette

Prior to developing a tool for communities to use, a survey was distributed to the Great Lake states to obtain their input. The results showed that communities wanted advising, current watershed issue, and key natural resource tools; along with models to predict what would happen if a certain action was

taken. During this time, researchers also looked for different zones in watershed to identify possible thresholds identifying whether a watershed state is good or bad and the early warning signs.

Once the survey results and research were completed, a tool was created to help support community building. This tool provides information on how to help protect natural resources when looking to build in a facilitated manner. It can help determine how close a watershed is to a tipping point and how actions may change the ecosystem if taken via interactive maps and simulations.

The first step is to log onto the website, which is: <http://tippingpointplanner.org/>, and create an account. The user then may select the watersheds that they are interested in before going through the six step process. The six steps are as follows:

- 1) Visioning – users are able to look at a communities' characteristics and select what they believe to be important.
- 2) Community Overview – shows such things as assets of a community, future land use, and what natural resources exist.
- 3) Tipping points module – includes maps showing land stressors and coastal watershed health.
- 4) Land use planning tools – has maps showing prime farm land, different types of soil, and open land types.
- 5) Action Strategies – allows users to click on goals they wish for community and how it will affect community characteristics voted on during the visioning step.
- 6) Watershed Action Plan – tabulation of everything that has been done in the previous five steps in pdf format.

Currently the developers are looking at improving maps, customizing different features, and making new modules. Workshops will also be hosted in order to work with communities on what they are interested in focusing on and going through the six steps with them.

Taltree Organic Produce and Camp Quercus 2015 by Maddie Grimm and Mia Goulding

The goal of the Organic Produce grant is to visit classrooms and teach children about sustainable produce. This involves teaching them about where food comes from, why knowing this is important and some sustainable ways that food can be grown to reduce chemicals in watershed. Children are taught using fun activities and visuals. Currently, the team has visited ten (10) schools and plans to visit two (2) more schools in February. Sixteen (16) classes were also provided with in-class hydro farming models.

This summer will be the third year of Taltree's summer camp program. The goal of this program is to get children outside and learning in a fun-filled environment. During camp, various activities are offered, such as animal programs, birdhouse painting, hiking, and field trips. Summer camp will run for five weeks with each week having a different theme, such as water week and science quest. The grant money for this program is being utilized to enable underserved children the ability to go to camp by reducing the price from \$165/week to \$20/week. An online application system is being utilized so that a child's need and region can be determined.

Committee/Program Reports:

Report Updates by Mike Molnar

We have yet to receive our NOAA Section 312 review findings, and we will distribute them once they are received.

2016-2020 Section 309 Assessment and Strategies went live on the website for comments February 2nd. The strategies that were developed are in the areas of wetlands, coastal hazards, and public access. A cross cutting strategy loosely called the coastal training program also was created.

CAB Membership nominations are due by the close of business on February 27th 2015. Current members are eligible for reappointment, but must be nominated. There are thirteen total positions up for nomination; ten two-year positions which run April 2015 – February 2017, and three one-year terms which run from April 2015 – February 2016.

Small Grant Proposal Vote by Maggie Byrne

All of the small grants received were put up for a vote with the knowledge that we have enough to cover all grant projects. As such, all grants were approved by present voting members. The grants are as follows:

- ξ City of Hobart – Hobart Sustainable Neighborhoods Plan - \$4,000
- ξ Dunes Learning Center – 2015 National Get Outdoors Day Celebration at Dunes Learning Center - \$4,550
- ξ Indiana Audubon Society – Indiana Dunes Birding Festival - \$1,000
- ξ Legacy Foundation – Shifting Sands - \$5,000
- ξ Purdue IISG – Ecosystem Services Valuation of the Indiana Coastal Zone - \$3,912

Program Updates by Mike Molnar

The coastal resource planner position has been open since June 2014. Staff is looking for input on what technical assistance individuals would like to have available to them and how this position might serve their needs. A sign-up sheet was distributed for those interested for inclusion in a future discussion on this topic.

There is no word as of yet regarding our budget from NOAA; however there is an estimation of a 2% or 3% decrease. On the State side, the budget is scheduled to drop 3% from the previous year.

Grants by Maggie Byrne

The DNR director approved 12 projects that still need to be approved by NOAA. NOAA approval is expected.

Outreach by Mike Molnar

An e-mail will be sent soon as a reminder about June Coastal Awareness month. Staff will be collecting events that will occur over the upcoming months to post on the website. Please submit your event.

Non-Point/Septic: by Dorreen Carey

On 2/19 there will be a Septic presentation at Dunes State Park. The topic will be innovative septic solutions.

CELCP by Mike Molnar

There are currently two CELCP projects going through the NOAA process. The two projects are:

City of Gary - Miller Acquisition
Porter County Parks and Recreation - Old Chicago Road Acquisition

Announcements:

March 12th – lecture on Mt. Baldy at Barker House
March 22nd – Annual Rendezvous at Krueger Memorial hall
May 12th and 13th – Calumet Summit at the South Shore promotional center
June 14th – Get Outdoor Day

Next Meeting – April 15, 2015 – Informational Meeting – 9am CT

LaPorte County - City of Michigan City, Emergency Management Conference Room
100 E. Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, IN 46360