

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday April 15, 2015

9am CST

City of Michigan City, Emergency Management Room

100 E. Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, IN 46360

Attendees:

Voting: Dan Plath (NiSource/Industry), Kim Swift (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore), Tiffany Tolbert (Indiana Landmarks/Historical), Ken Purze (LaPorte County – Chamber of Commerce), Nicole Barker (Save the Dunes/Environmental Advocacy), Frank Seilheimer (LaPorte County City or Town / Michigan City), Richard Morrisroe (Citizen at Large - Lake), Shannon Eason (Park and Recreation/Michigan City Parks), Jeffrey Katz (Porter County City or Town / Beverly Shores), Tim Kingsland (Lake County City or Town / Hobart), Paul Labus (Local Natural Resource Management/TNC)

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

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

Old Business:

February meeting minutes approved without discussion.

New Business:

Orientation/ Program Information:

CZMA and Program Background presented by Mike Molnar

Mike Molnar provided a brief summary of the Coastal Zone Management Act that was established in 1972. The Act provides national guidelines for the state coastal management plan and the national policy states the goal is to “preserve, protect, develop, and restore where possible, coastal zone resources.” The act is divided into different sections, five of which made note of:

Section 306 – Program Implementation Grants

Section 306A – Small-scale Construction

Section 309 – Program Enhancement

Section 312 – Program Evaluation

Section 6217 – Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

The Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program was approved in September 2002 as a part of the DNR Division of Soil conservation until it was moved in 2005 to the Division of Nature Preserves. From the current Strategic Plan - the two main goals of the program are that Coastal Program resources are used for taking action that improve, protect, and to make Indiana's costal assets accessible. The second goal is to promote partnerships and collaboration that increase Lake Michigan Coastal Program effectiveness.

Programs Overview by LMCP Staff

Maggie Byrne gave an overview of the Grants program highlighting how the grant program functions. She provided information on both the small and large grants programs. This included discussion on what the funding criteria was for large grants, as well as the different funding categories. She gave examples of several projects that we have given funding to in the past. Maggie also made note that The Coastal Program has contributed funding or technical assistance and support to many planning documents and inventories and assessments.

Mike Molnar provided an overview of the Nonpoint Source program, which is headed by Dorreen Carey. The sources of Nonpoint Source pollution can include the following: excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas; oil, grease and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and energy production; sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding stream banks; salt from irrigation practices and acid drainage from abandoned mines; bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes and faulty septic systems; and atmospheric deposition and hydromodification

Molnar went on to state that Carey coordinates and provides technical assistance in regards to IDEM 319 and Coastal 6217 through working with the Lake Michigan Watersheds and Storm Water Districts Clean Marina. The goal is to get the five remaining unapproved measures approved.

The next presentation, given by Derek Nimetz, was an overview of his involvement in ecological issues and stewardship he performs. These activities include public outreach that includes nature preserve field days. He also works on rare plant monitoring, conservation planning, natural area restoration and natural preserve management. Nimetz also conducts onsite inspections of the various different grant projects.

Kacey Alexander gave the next presentation regarding her position as the Operations Specialist. She reviews Quarterly Financial reports and works with grantees on any issues. Once both the progress and financial reports are approved, partial payments are created. She also receives and prepares Grant agreements and amendments that need to through the State signature process. Beyond this, she also works on the CAB meeting minutes and website updates.

The last presentation was given by Molnar, the Program Manager of the Coastal Program. His job duties include providing guidance including policy decisions, programmatic planning and budgeting as well as

coordinating personnel issues. He also works on NOAA grants, Section 309, Section 312, strategic planning, Shipwreck work and the Ecosystem poster.

CAB Structure/Purpose/Nominations - Mike Molnar

The Coastal Advisory Board provides a public forum for diverse stakeholders to assist with the implementation of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. Members of the board make recommendations on priorities and guidance on the Grants Program, as well as make nominations for Coastal Areas of Significance.

The 2015 – 2016 Meeting will be held on the following dates:

June 17th, 2015 – 6:30pm CDT

August 19th, 2015 – 10:00am CDT

October 21st, 2015 – 6:30pm CDT

December 16th, 2015 – 10:00am CDT

February 17th, 2016 – 10:00am CDT

The various committees (Grant, Outreach/Education, CELCP, and Septic) where the Coastal Advisory Board can participate were highlighted. Molnar went on to describe the three Officer positions that the Board has available. Nominations for the position of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary were then requested from board members.

Nominations:

Chair: Jeffrey Katz, Tiffany Tolbert, and Frank Seilheimer

Vice Chair: Dan Plath, Kenneth Purze and Christine Livingston

Secretary: Nicole Barker

Results:

Chair: Tiffany Tolbert

Vice Chair: Dan Plath

Secretary: Nicole Barker

Lake Michigan Historic and Cultural Resources Public Access Study - Tiffany Tolbert

In 2012, Indiana Landmarks was awarded (Section 309) Coastal funding to update the historic Cultural Resources Study that was last completed in 2000. The project goals included developing a

comprehensive survey of watershed historic sites; develop Public Access recommendations and conditions assessment for historic resources.

A Historic Resources Survey and Review was completed in partnership with NIRPC. This survey consisted of three different steps. First, a Comprehensive Survey was completed that identified historic and cultural locations for possible consideration in future public access projects. Next, a Public Access Methodology was completed determine if the historic resources would be adaptive to reuse. Finally, a condition assessment on the properties was conducted.

Committee/Program Reports:

Program Updates by Mike Molnar

312 comments were received from NOAA and shared with the board. LMCP supplied answers to the comments that were received. Once the final 312 document is received it will be shared with the board.

Accomplishments

- The Indiana LMCP has enhanced the preservation of and access to cultural and historic resources through the Lake Michigan Shipwreck Project and the designation of the J.D. Marshall Preserve.
- The LMCP is enhancing coastal community capacity to address important coastal management issues, including regional planning for growth and development and public access, through the Marquette Plan.

Necessary Actions

- The Indiana LMCP must work with the NOAA Office for Coastal Management to develop and submit a work plan with interim benchmarks and a timeline for meeting the goals and objectives it has identified as important to the coastal nonpoint source pollution program within six months of the release of the final 312 findings. The documentation indicating how Indiana met the outstanding conditions must be submitted no later than September 30, 2019.

Recommendation

- The Indiana LMCP is strongly encouraged to explore opportunities to enhance LMCP staff capacity, including filling existing vacant positions, reclassifying vacant positions to a higher pay level, hiring for new positions, and providing training and professional development opportunities for existing LMCP staff members.

Grants by Maggie Byrne

The Grant Priority Setting Process is an issue as it stands. The CAB was asked to formulate ideas about the current process and how it might be changed in the future. During the meeting Maggie gave suggestions on what could be done.

- 1) Do away with the priority setting process. Doing so would mean having to find a way of incorporating public input as this is a requirement.
- 2) Find different ways to get more public input through social media and/or survey monkey
- 3) Change the process to include more Coastal Advisory Board influence on the process. More public input could be collected further in advance of the priority setting meeting, via Survey Monkey, social media, e-mail. The Grant Committee could look at all of the input, and narrow down the possibilities to be more in-line with the goals and initiatives of the Coastal Program. The Grant Committee would then compile all of these into options to be voted on by the entire CAB. The CAB would vote on these priorities at the June CAB meeting.
- 4) A combination of these

Outreach by Mike Molnar

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.

Ecological by Derek Nimetz

There are plans in the future to update recreation and natural area conservation plans. The board will have a chance in the future to view land and natural acquisition applications.

Announcements:

August 19th – Day long CAB field trip of Coastal Projects
May 12th and 13th – Calumet Summit at the South Shore promotional center
June – Coastal Awareness Month
June 14th – Get Outdoor Day

Next Meeting – June 17, 2015 – Grants Priorities – 6:30pm CT

Woodland Park – Sycamore Hall

2100 Willowcreek Rd
Portage, IN 46368