

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Porter County – Portage Parks – Woodlawn Hall

June 18, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. CDT

Attendees:

Board Members: Tiffany Tolbert (Chair/Indiana Landmarks), Richard Morrisroe (East Chicago Planner), Ken Purze (LaPorte County Citizen), Frank Seilheimer (LaPorte County Cities and Towns), Dan Plath (NiSource), Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS), Geof Benson (Porter County Cities and Towns), Nicole Barker (Save the Dunes), Ray Joseph (Porter County Parks), Christine Livingston (Indiana Dunes Tourism), Christopher Meyers (Lake County Cities and Towns), Kathy Luther (NIRPC), Leslie Dorworth (IN/IL Sea Grant), Bob Daum (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)

Non-Board Members: Maggie Byrne (Coastal Program), Natalie Johnson (Urban Waters/Purdue), Dorreen Carey (Coastal Program), Derek Nimetz (Coastal Program), Margaret Palicka (Coastal Program), Mike Molnar (Coastal Program), Jenny Orsburn (City of Portage), Susan Mihalo (TNC), Michelle Bollinger (Abonmarche), Matt Kaiser (Abonmarche), Mark McLaughlin (Hammond), Tom Davenport (U.S. EPA)

Old Business:

May meeting minutes approved without discussion.

Grant Priority Discussion: Grants Committee discussed options and is bringing forth recommendations. Presenting options before the board and the public to ask questions or make statements. Everyone received a copy of the recommended grant priority options.

The Grants program is partnering with the Bicentennial Nature Trust (BNT). 2016 is the Bicentennial Celebration of the State and the 100 year anniversary of the State Park System and the 50 year anniversary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Local communities are given the opportunity to acquire land with minimal match. The Grants Committee met and selected out options to encourage people to participate in the Coastal Program Grants Land Acquisition.

Options discussed:

All of the 2015 funds would go to land acquisition.

A percentage would be used towards land acquisition and the remainder used as funds have been in the past.

Consider each priority separately and award projects. Use points instead of a multiplier to give advantages in certain categories.

Two options that received support:

1. Give 7 coastal points to each land acquisition project that also takes advantage of the BNT funds. Give additional points to those that meet priorities.

2. Allocate \$300,000 toward land acquisition projects and the remainder would go to program money to be distributed in the normal fashion.

The Grant Committee recommends additional points for projects that take advantage of the BNT funds. Applicants would have to have the letter of commitment from BNT to be considered for the additional points priority. If there are not many land acquisition projects, the funds are still distributed as they normally would be using the priorities. It also leaves the room that if there are many land acquisition projects, the land acquisition projects will have priority and use the majority of the funds. The bonus points would be completely separate from the priority bonus points.

3. Do nothing.

No public comments or questions.

Motion to support the recommendation of the grants committee. Option 1 selected.

Grants Priority Session:

Basics of Grants Program – LMCP provides technical and financial resources and coordination with partners. Program Area is the Lake Michigan Watershed, along with county and state agencies. The Program receives approximately \$600,000 annually and it is distributed by the Lake Michigan Coastal Program in partnership with NOAA. Since 2002, the LMCP has awarded over \$10 million dollars in grants for over 280 projects.

Federal requirements: Consistent with the goals and actions of the CZMA of 1972. Low cost construction and land acquisition projects have to be located entirely within the coastal zone. Federal areas are not included. The projects have to have a broad and lasting benefit and must meet ADA requirements, along with meeting the criteria for Areas of Concern.

Who can apply? Units of local government, area wide agencies, state agencies, colleges and universities, conservancy districts, port authorities, commissions, non-profits (not eligible for low cost construction or land acquisition projects).

Max request for land acquisition is \$150,000; Max request for Low-Cost construction is \$100,000; Max request for all other categories is \$50,000.

Program is done on reimbursement basis with a 1:1 match rate. The projects always need to be finished within an 18 month time frame. Extensions occur sometimes. Required match can be in the form of cash (donations), in-kind funds, & volunteer time. The match can be local, state, and private funds. Land value donation can also be used as match, but only in land acquisition projects in very special cases – check with Maggie beforehand, no matter what the case. Federal funds from another program can never be used.

Ineligible projects: Infrastructure, Wetland or habitat restoration, contamination clean-up, construction on privately owned lands, trail construction, parking lots, and roads.

Part of the scoring criteria includes how well partnerships are used and works together on projects. Partners can provide some of the match.

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), and Emerging Issues (education and outreach, planning & coordination, or applied research – what is a hot topic now?)

Grant Priorities: project proposal that fits receive bonus points; others that do not meet priorities can still apply as long as the project fits the requirements of the RFP, just do not receive bonus points)

Top priority = up to 10 bonus points

Second priority = 0 – 5 bonus points

Priorities should be brief and general. If a project can apply to more than one category, apply where it best fits/gets more points.

2015 Grant Program Timeline:

June 18 – Public Input

July 15 – Request for Proposals posted on website

July & August – Grant Workshops (3 total)

September 12 – Pre-proposals due

October – Grants Committee reviewing pre-proposals

October 15 – Grants Committee votes on pre-proposals

December 12 – Due date for full-proposals (earlier than last year)

Jan & Feb – Environmental Review

Feb – Technical Advisory Board reviews and scores, then brought to the director of the DNR

March – Projects brought to NOAA for approval

July or August – Find out from NOAA if projects were approved

Next day – Grant agreement sent, Indianapolis takes 4-6 weeks, then project can begin.

Pre-proposal application – Page 1 has description, Page 2 talks about what the project costs, length, and how the project is consistent, Page 3 is budget (locked into budget). 3 additional pages can be included for photos and such. 6 page maximum.

Grant workshop with BNT on July 15. Anything else can be found on our website.

After public input and voting, the following were determined as priorities for each category:

Applied Research:

1. Ecological impacts of coarse woody debris alteration in Streams and Rivers
2. Value of using native and indigenous plants
3. No votes for any others

Education and Outreach

1. Water quality and water safety Education
2. Watershed Management Plan and Implementation & Historical, Cultural and Regional Enactment (tie)
3. Teacher and Education Workshops & Place-based Environmental Education (tie)

Planning, Coordination, and Management

1. Plan for river access, fish access, and uses

2. Watershed Plan Management and Implementation & Rehabilitation Plans for Cultural and Historical Resources(tie)
3. Assessing the local coordinates for green infrastructure and sustainable metrics

Land Acquisition

1. Land adjacent to rivers and tributaries flowing to Lake Michigan
2. Areas adjacent to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
3. Areas identified in the moraine forest project

Low-Cost Construction

1. Invasive species removal from natural areas
2. Public access site facility construction
3. Others that tied would leave too many priorities

Emerging Issues –

1. Study of blight/right sizing within coastal area
2. Implement early detection in reporting of invasive species
3. Emerald Ash borer mitigation plan for coastal riparian corridors

Every category will include cultural and historical area restoration as well.

Announcements:

Portage Water Festival – Paddling on Lake George, Saturday June 21 at 11pm

Strong Cities, Strong Communities – July 22 & 23

NIRPC Meeting – June 19th, 9am; Marquette Plan Meeting at 11am – June 19th

Rain Garden and Bioswale June 22 – Walk and visit, 8am

Valparaiso Historic Depot – Friday June 20 at 11:30am, moved July 7

Next Meeting August 20th, Field Trip.

End of Meeting.