

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program
Coastal Advisory Board Meeting – 2008 Grant Cycle Pre-Proposal Discussion
September 19, 2007 6:15 PM CDT
Draft Minutes

Dorreen Carey, CAB Chair, opened meeting and welcomed all who attended – 6:22 PM CST

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Spike Peller, Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Laurie Eberhardt, Elizabeth McCloskey, Bob Daum, Dorreen Carey, Dave Pilz, Bruce Woods, Jeff Jones, Becky Fox, Joel Smith – representing Drew Benziger, Frank Seilheimer, Paul Labus, Kay Nelson, Leslie Dorworth, Bill Moran, Gene Matzat, Gerald Hodges

Interested Parties: Carol Cook, Brad Bumgardner, Derek Nimetz, John Ervin, Terry Williams, Frances Canonizado, Tom Anderson, Denarie Kane, [others inaudible]

Lake Michigan Coastal Staff present: Mike Molnar (LMCP Program Manager), Jenny Orsburn (LMCP Program Specialist), Joe Exl (LMCP Coastal Nonpoint Coordinator), Susan Melnyk (Special Projects Coordinator), and Jenni Newman (Program Assistant)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the July 18, 2007 CAB Meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Small Grant Withdrawal – Jenny Orsburn provided overview.

Due to much opposition from the Audubon Society, the Town of Highland Little Calumet project is withdrawing their grant submission. Upon voting, the Board agreed to accept the withdrawal.

2008 Grant Pre-Proposals – Jenny Orsburn provided overviews.

The Program received 27 pre-proposals for the 2008 grant cycle. The total amount requested through the pre-proposals is \$1.29M. The Grant Committee previously met and reviewed each grant to be certain that each one is consistent with the goals set forth by the Program and that each grant is to be set within the Program's Coastal Zone. The Grant Committee did not prioritize the grant pre-proposal submissions in their previous meeting. Also, not all projects submitted through the pre-proposal process were supported by the Grant Committee. Upon the CAB's votes in tonight's meeting, each supported grantee will then submit a full grant proposal containing much more detailed information about their projects.

Land Acquisition Grant Pre-Proposals – Jenny Orsburn provided overviews.

Applicant: Lake County Parks & Recreation Department
Project Title: Vareb Acquisition for Natural Area Preservation
Federal Request: \$150,000 Local Share: \$450,000

The Vareb Acquisition would acquire 30 acres of oak savannah currently used for grasslands, agriculture, and supports many species of wildlife. This land also acts as a focal point for the future south end of the park.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: Lake County Parks & Recreation Department

Project Title: Gary Manufacturing MFG. LLC Acquisition at Oak Ridge Prairie for Natural Area Preservation

Federal Request: \$60,000 Local Share: \$60,000

This project would consist of purchasing 10 acres of various wetlands adjacent to Oak Ridge Prairie County Park which is interspersed with Oak Savanna within the company's property line in Merrillville. The property will be managed as a nature preserve.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Low Cost Construction Grant Pre-Proposals – Jenny Orsburn provided overviews.

Applicant: Lake County Parks & Recreation Department

Project Title: Beaver Dam Wetland for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$97,500 Local Share: \$97,500

This project will restore hydrology to over 200 acres of wetlands. This will utilize water levels to control exotic species and will improve access and habitat for wetland dependant creatures.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: Lake County Parks & Recreation Department

Project Title: Big Maple Lake Restoration for Recreational/ Access Improvement

Federal Request: \$25,000 Local Share: \$30,000

This project includes restoring the lake edge with native plant materials and utilizing/ expanding the large native shade tree species with the intention of increasing wildlife habitat and the connection to the water source while reducing erosion and providing a shady, park-like setting.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process as the Board did have questions that they hope will be answered within the details of the full grant submission.

Applicant: Lake County Parks & Recreation Department

Project Title: Deep River County Park Boardwalk for Recreational/ Public Access Improvement

Federal Request: \$20,000 Local Share: \$20,000

Through this project construction of boardwalks along sections of the hiking trails would assist in public enjoyment while deterring activity in sensitive habitat. Currently portions of the trails are eroded due to wash-outs by Deep River.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: Lake County Parks & Recreation Department

Project Title: Three Rivers Lagoon & Lake Enhancement for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$50,000 Local Share: \$50,000

This project includes the clean-up of a pit which now contains dumped concrete and tires. Also, the creation of a natural slope and detention area for storm water run-off will assist in creating a fishing lagoon that is also a theme within the children's play discovery area, a project which is currently underway within this project zone. Native plant species will also be utilized.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: Lake County Parks & Recreation Department

Project Title: Three Rivers Bio-swale Installation for Recreational/ Public Access Improvement

Federal Request: \$50,000 Local Share: \$50,000

This project focuses on creating the 350 foot-long, 20 foot-wide corridor to capture storm water, allowing most of it to percolate back into the lake property. Native plants will be utilized as filters and educational signs will be posted for public education of the bio-engineering of the "green" practices for storm water run-off.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: Lake County Parks & Recreation Department

Project Title: Gibson Woods Park: Native Tree & Shrub Planting for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$5,000 Local Share: \$5,000

This project would assist in maintaining the existing native vegetation at the park's entrance and parking area. Construction of a storm water filter and native shrubs would also be utilized.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was *not* supported by the Board as they did not feel this is a priority. It was suggested that the grant be re-submitted with a new proposal for the 2009 grant cycle.

Applicant: Lake County Parks & Recreation Department

Project Title: Gibson Woods Park: Perimeter Clearing& Invasive Species Removal for Terrestrial Invasives Management

Federal Request: \$5,993 Local Share: \$5,993

By clearing invasives and cutting a 15 foot wide path, the project will increase maintenance access and increase public visibility into the park. All biomass will be chipped and hauled off-site.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was *not* supported by the Board as they did not feel this is a priority. It was suggested that the grant be re-submitted with a new proposal for the 2009 grant cycle.

Applicant: Portage Parks Department

Project Title: Salt Creek Habitat Restoration Project for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$100,000 Local Share: \$100,740

Through this project 2.1 miles of Salt Creek will be restored by moving fallen logs, improving/adding habitat structures, and establishing several access points. A beautiful area will be developed while restoring the natural habitat of Salt Creek.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: DNR – Division of the Nature Preserves

Project Title: Cressmoor Prairie Central Unit Woody Reduction for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$15,000 Local Share: \$15,000

This project will cut and herbicide woody vegetation in 15 acres of the area. The project should reduce the invasive shrubs and trees by at least 95% within the treated area.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: DNR – Division of the Nature Preserves

Project Title: Coastal Fens Cattail Control for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$22,500 Local Share: \$22,500

The three areas that this project will treat for the hybrid cattail (*Typha x glauca*) are: Springfield Fen (15 acres), Jones Fen (5 acres), and Suman Fen (10 acres).

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: DNR – Division of the Nature Preserves

Project Title: Calumet Prairie – Invasive Shrub Control for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$18,750 Local Share: \$18,750

This project involves approximately 15 acres at Calumet Prairie in which invasive shrub species are found. This project would utilize mechanically mowing, hand-cutting, and applying herbicides to the area.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: DNR – Division of the Nature Preserves

Project Title: Pine Station – Clark Road Restoration for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$45,000 Local Share: \$45,000

This project targets reducing the invasive woody plant species from approximately 10 acres of Pine Station along North Clark Road. This will involve removal via chainsaws, brush-cutters, and herbicide application. This project will focus on shrubs, tree saplings, and larger diameter trees. A fence will be installed along the road to reduce off-road vehicle usage as well as illegal curb dumping.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: DNR – Division of the Nature Preserves

Project Title: NorcoTract, Hoosier Prairie Phase 1 for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$25,000 Local Share: \$25,000

The goal of this project is a 90% reduction of woody invasive plant species of a 6.5 acre wetland and 8 acres of prairie.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: DNR – Division of the Nature Preserves

Project Title: Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$7,200 Local Share: \$7,200

Implementing the 2005-2010 plan to eradicate herbaceous and woody invasive species per the NRMP is the goal of this project. Also included within the project plans are mapping of the invasive populations, progress documentation, fire break construction for protection of infrastructure, and two 90 day stewardship positions.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: DNR – Division of the Nature Preserves

Project Title: Noel's Prairie South Restoration for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$15,000 Local Share: \$15,000

This project will restore 15 acres of savanna including removing invading sassafras and young oaks.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: Lake County Board of Commissioners

Project Title: Lake Co. Fairgrounds Milford Covered Bridge Natural Area for Recreational/ Public Access Improvement

Federal Request: \$100,000 Local Share: \$100,000

This project is aimed at creating unobstructed vistas, stream-bank habitat, an upstream pond, a downstream reflecting pool, and a wildlife observation/ scenic overlook. Also this project would install lighting, vegetative buffers, and landscape borders around the bridge.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was **not supported by the Board as they did not feel this is a priority as it does not support public access to a natural area historic to NW Indiana.**

Applicant: City of Hobart Park & Recreation Department

Project Title: Oak Savannah/ Lake George Trail Pedestrian Bridge at Fred Rose Park for Recreational/ Public Access Improvement

Federal Request: \$100,000 Local Share: \$280,000

A contractor will be hired to install a 175' long pedestrian bridge to span the inlet of Lake George between 8th Street and Lakeshore, along the Oak Savannah/ Lake George trail.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was **not supported by the Board as this pre-proposal seems to be a convenience issue and does not provide public access to a natural area and therefore this grant pre-proposal is not a priority.**

Applicant: Lake County Solid Waste Management District

Project Title: Environmental Center Natural Area Restoration and Habitat Demonstration Area for Recreational/ Public Access Improvement

Federal Request: \$60,000 Local Share: \$62,500

The development of approximately 5 acres of land will consist of wet sedge, prairie, and upland forest and include informational kiosk for patrons. A trail will be incorporated into the plan's demonstration area of a butterfly garden, bluebird area, and wildlife observation area. This area will be open year-round from dawn-to-dusk, free-of-charge to the public, and serve as an "Outdoor Classroom".

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: Town of Merrillville Parks & Recreation Department

Project Title: Pruzin Nature Center Upland Forest Restoration Project for Recreational/ Public Access Improvement

Federal Request: \$30,000 Local Share: \$30,000

This plan will implement the Upland Forest component to the Parks Master Plan by restoring the area and creating an Outdoor Classroom.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board by a majority vote to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: City of Michigan City

Project Title: Trail Creek Stabilization Project for Natural Area Restoration

Federal Request: \$37,500 Local Share: \$37,500

Located just outside the city, south of Route 20, upstream 1,000', this project would focus on stabilization of the bank and lunger structures of Trail Creek.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Education and Outreach Grant Pre-Proposals – Jenny Orsburn provided overviews.

Applicant: Alliance for the Great Lakes

Project Title: Indiana Adopt-A-Beach Clean Up for Comprehensive Education/ Outreach

Federal Request: \$15,000 Local Share: \$15,000

The focus will be on training instructors of the threats that face the Great Lakes for classroom curriculum while also working with students and teachers to engage them in protecting Lake Michigan through education and hands-on projects. This project will also improve environmental conditions at 14 beaches/ shorelines through clean-up efforts of volunteers during Coast Week 2008 as well as through the year-round Adopt-a-Beach efforts.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was **not supported by the Board as this is too similar to the 2007 proposal and it was suggested that Alliance for the Great Lakes submit a small grant application for this project.**

Applicant: Portage Parks Department

Project Title: Portage Outdoor Science Education Program for Comprehensive Education/ Outreach

Federal Request: \$50,000 Local Share: \$52,500

Through research and development of approved classroom-based lesson plans for Outdoor Science Manuals for grades K-12 including developing a series of field-trip based lesson plans, educational sessions will focus on five diverse natural areas within Portage for an outdoor environmental science curriculum.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: Dept. of Natural Resources, Div. of State Parks & Reservoirs

Project Title: Dunes SP Nature Center Interpretive Displays for Cultural/ Historical Education

Federal Request: \$100,000 Local Share: \$150,000

The main project will be a complete interpretive exhibit renovation inside the Dunes SP Nature Center. Additionally, wayside displays will be added to the exterior where natural communities are maintained for visitors and interpretive programs.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

Applicant: Valparaiso University

Project Title: Building a Community of River Stewards for Natural Resource Management Training

Federal Request: \$15,000 Local Share: \$15,000

This will be a hands-on course applying scientific methods to stream stewardship in which students will design, install, and monitor legally-permitted improvements/ restorations. Funds will provide 30 students (15 VU students and 15 non-VU students – Fish & Wildlife professionals, park personnel, etc.) meals for one 5-day field trip and one 3-day field trip, lodging, and the training. The outcome is to provide the participants education to give-back to the Coastal Program area though the training will not be conducted within the Coastal area.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process with stipulations that the proposal contain verbiage regarding the class participants and the Coastal area that will benefit from the outcome of this educational course.

Planning/ Coordination Grant Pre-Proposals – Jenny Orsburn provided overviews.

Applicant: City of Gary Parks and Recreation Department

Project Title: City of Gary Shoreline Management Plan for Shoreline Management

Federal Request: \$20,000 Local Share: \$20,000

Through funding a consulting firm(s) will be hired to conduct tasks of identifying and mapping publicly-owned management area, reviewing applicable Shoreline Management Plans and Ordinances, and assessing existing conditions. Also, through public process a plan of management, protection, maintenance, restoration will be developed while providing the public safe access in the comprehensive shoreline management area.

Upon voting, this pre-proposal was supported by the Board to now enter the full proposal process.

OLD BUSINESS

Coast Week 2007 – Mike Molnar provided update.

Coast Week 2007 was successful in most aspects and now the process of looking back to assess the positives and the negatives for the planning for the 2008 event begins.

NEXT CAB MEETING – Mike Molnar provided update.

The next meeting is set for October 24, 2007 at NIRPC in Portage. The meeting will consist of a representative presenting the results of the coastal studies held by IDEM for the Beach Act Program. Also, Joe Exl will present information regarding the Clean Marina Act. And preliminary discussions regarding the CAB Retreat will be held. Invites for the Retreat were hand-delivered to the attending Members during this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A conference is being held in Chicago on October 17, 2007 (same date as CAB Meeting) that Dorreen Cary and Kay Nelson are scheduled to attend.
- Marquette Plan meeting is being held on September 25th & 26th – all are encouraged to attend
- [Other announcements were inaudible]

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM CST