

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Grant Pre-Proposal Meeting

October 21, 2015

6:30pm CDT

City of Michigan City, Emergency Management Conference Room

100 E. Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, IN 46360

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Voting: Tiffany Tolbert (Historical/Cultural Resources/Chair), Richard Morrisroe (Citizen at Large – Lake Co.), Ken Purze (Chamber of Commerce – LaPorte Co.), Shannon Eason (Parks & Rec), Kim Swift (IDNL), Frank Seiheimer (LaPorte Co.), Tim Kingsland (Lake Co.), Nicole Barker (Save the Dunes)

Non-Voting: Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS), Kathy Luther (NIRPC), Dr. Young Choi (Universities)

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

Old Business:

August 19, 2015 meeting minutes approved without discussion

Presentations:

Mike Longan, Vice-President, Indiana of the Calmet Heritage Partnership, gave a brief overview of the Calumet Heritage Partnership.

The partnership was established in 1999 and is a non-profit. It is defined as a “diverse, bi-state partnership of environmental, cultural and historical organizations and individual, libraries, educational institutions, municipalities, and governmental agencies. Each partner is committed to celebrating, preserving and protecting the unique heritage of the Calumet region.”

The mission of the organization is to create a National Heritage area that combines natural, cultural, and historic resources to form a cohesive, nationally important story. The land would be both publicly and privately owned and would be locally managed. National Parks are allowed to be a part of the area.

A National Heritage area could increase visibility of the region, as well as stimulate economic growth.

Coastal Grant Pre-proposals_by Maggie Byrne

The LMCP has received 24 pre-proposals totaling over \$1.5 million dollars in requests for grant funds for the 2016 funding cycle. It is anticipated that the LMCP will receive approximately \$600,000 for the pass through grants program. LMCP will invite a little over \$900,000 of projects to submit full-proposals. This will be done to provide backup projects in the event that certain projects are not pursued or fail to submit full-proposals. Handouts were provided containing the list of the pre-proposals that were received and the amount requested for each project.

Based on the recommendations of the grant committee, board members were asked to accept the recommended proposals. It was understood that voting is based on accepting the full slate of recommendations, and not for each individual proposal.

Recommended Pre-proposals

- Dunes Learning Center – Launch of New Mighty Acorns Curriculum
- Izaak Walton League of America – Porter County Chapter – Family Nature Education Programs
- Lake County Solid Waste Management District – Protecting Lake Michigan Water Quality Starts with Me!
- Legacy Foundation – Shifting Sands Outreach
- Porter County Recycling and Waste Reduction District – “Water Quality Protection Means the World” Initiative
- Audubon Chicago Region – Calumet Hemimmarsh Planning
- City of Gary Dept of Planning & Redevelopment – City of Gary Green Infrastructure Plan
- Save the Dunes – Climate Change Action Plan for the Nearshore Indiana Dunes Coastal Region
- City of Hobart – Gilliana Property
- Town of Michiana Shores – Michiana Shores Public Access to Lake Michigan
- Porter County Parks & Rec – Extension to Brincka Cross Land Acquisition
- City of Gary Dept of Public Parks – Marquette Park Pier
- Gary Public Transportation Corporation – A livable Broadway: Urban Oases Program
- Michigan City Area Schools – Scholars to Stewards: Student Driven Stormwater BMPs
- Michigan City Dept of Parks and Rec – Winding Creek Cove BMPs Demonstration – phase 2 Bank Stabilization
- City of Hobart – City of Hobart Stormwater Master Plan Ross Township Element
- Hobart Sanitary/Storm Water District – City of Hobart Tree Inventory Program

- Town of Highland – Highland Community Tree Inventory and Management Plan
- Michigan City Sanitary District – Planning for Green Infrastructure Implementation in Michigan City, Indiana
- City of Portage Marina Commission – Portage Public Marina Master Plan

Coastal Grant Priority Process Revision by Maggie Byrne

Maggie introduced the idea formed by the Grants Committee on how to improve the Priority Setting Process. Issues with the current process include duplicate priorities, too many priorities, and very specific priorities. As it is now, the decisions concerning the priorities for next Grant Cycle are decided within ten minutes with no discussion.

The proposed change was to begin the discussion and look for input beginning at the April meeting. This will happen via e-mails, paper, and other forms of social media and include the opportunity for public input as well. All of the submissions will be compiled for the Grant Committee to discuss and prioritize. The Grant Committee would then present the top five or six recommendations to the Coastal Advisory Board to vote on.

This idea in its entirety was approved by the Board.

Coastal Advisory Board Structure revision proposal by Mike Molnar

Mike introduced the changes that Coastal Advisory Board members had previously discussed up for a vote. The changes were approved by the Board and they will now be presented to the DNR Director for review and approval. The changes are as follows:

- Rotating Positions
 - Adjust terms to two (2) years
- Stakeholder Group Definitions
 - Chamber and Planner – definition revised
 - Agriculture Representative – definition revised
- Board Member Terms
 - The appointment and resignation process was clarified
- Board Nominations (Non-Voting) – request Stakeholder/Agency representative to submit letter of nomination.

Staff Reports:**Coastal Staffing and Updates** by Mike Molnar

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program is in the process of hiring a Coastal Planner. The posting has been up on the State website for about three weeks and is scheduled to close on October 22nd. We hope to have someone hired by the New Year.

Dorreen will be coming back as an intermittent beginning November 2nd. She will be doing her normal duties until a new Non-Point coordinator is hired. She will then continue helping getting them up to speed and focusing on outreach.

Grants – Small Grants – by Maggie Byrne

- City of Hobart – Hobart Historic Preservation Policy Updates
- Dunes Learning Center – 2016 National Get Outdoors Day Celebration
- Indiana Audubon Society – Indiana Dunes Birding Festival
- Indiana Landmarks – Gary General Services Bldg Assessment and Rehab Plan
- Michiana Shores – Public Land Resource Management Plan

All small grants approved by Board vote.

Announcements:

Next meeting December 16th, morning meeting, 10am at Michigan City Hall