Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday October 17th 2018
6:30 pm CST

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
6100 Southport Rd. Portage, IN 46368

Attendees:

**Voting:** Shannon Eason (Park and Recreation/Michigan City Parks), Paul Labus (Local Natural Resource Management/TNC), Tim Kingsland (Lake County City or Town / Hobart), James Alexander (NiSource), Donna Norkus (Porter County), Reggie Korthals (BR&S Citizen – At-Large), Skyler York (Michigan City – Planner At-Large), Brad Miller (Historical Resources)

**Non-Voting:** Kathy Luther (NIRPC), Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS),

**LMCP Staff:** Kacey Alexander, Sarah Nimetz, Derek Nimetz, Maggie Byrne, Sylvia Collins, Jess Huseman, Katie Vallis

**Public:** Sabrina Fleming (Willington lox), Joe Exl (NIRPC)

Old Business:

August meeting minutes were approved

New Business:

*Coastal Grants Pre-Proposal – J. Exl*

Before voting, Joe briefly discussed the process that the Grants Committee uses to develop the list that is presented to the board. The Grants Committee discusses and reviews the pre-proposals submitted by the prospective grantees and recommends a slate to the Coastal Advisory Board for approval. The Grant Committee bases its recommendations on numerous factors, including how well a proposal supports the mission of the Coastal Program.
A pre-proposal that is recommended with conditions gives the organization an opportunity to revise their project and tweak minor aspects of the project. This could be an audience change, change of scope, or small project change.

**Recommended**

- Audubon Great Lakes – Restoration Planning for Colonial Waterbirds $49,905
- Dunes Learning Center – How Everyday Actions Affect Lake Michigan: A Winter Ecology Program Grades 3-9 $15,000
- Save the Dunes Conservation Fund – Living in the Dunes: A Guide for Creating Butterfly Habitat in IN Dune Communities - $28,000
- Indiana Dunes Tourism – Native American Trailhead Plan $23,146
- Michigan City Sanitary District – Planning & Design of Recreation Amenities at Cheney Run & Karwick Nature Park $30,000
- The Nature Conservancy A citizen-Informed Urban Forestry Plan for Gary City Parks - $50,000
- Town of Munster – Ridge Road & N Calumet Streetscape & Access Plan $50,000
- Porter County Parks & Recreation – Acquisition of Smith Parcel $150,000
- Lake County Parks – Sarros Acquisition at the Future Lake Hills County Park Site - $150,000
- Town of Dyer Stormwater – Hart Ditch 2-Stae Ditch Riparian Corridor Restoration Phase I $100,000

**Recommended with Conditions**

- Legacy Foundation – Lake County Environmental Hazard Plan $27,500
- Save the Dunes Conservation Fund – Dune Habitat Inventory & Protection $37,322.29
- Morton Arboretum – Ash Regeneration and its Role in EAB Population Dynamics in Natural Woodlands $30,794
- School City of Hobart – Erosion Control Along the Bank of Lake George $100,000
- City of Michigan City Department of Parks & Recreation – Sheridan Beach Public Access & Erosion Control $44,500
- City of Portage Port Authority – Maletta Marina Water Quality Improvements $15,000
- City of Hammond – Hansen Library Restoration Project $70,000

**Not Recommended**

- City of Hobart Sanitary/Storm Water District – Duck Creek Stream Assessment Project $50,000
- The Delta Institute – Northwest Indiana Green Infrastructure Design & Maintenance Training $16,250
- Purdue University Northwest – Improving Virtual 3D Septic System Model for Public Outreach Activities $25,000
- Wildlife Habitat Council – Coastal Wetland Education Actions $29,370

The Coastal Advisory Board voted on and approved the full slate of pre-proposals recommended by the Grants Committee.
The following board members recused themselves from voting on projects that they are involved with or would benefit from.

- Shannon Eason – City of Michigan City
- Tim Kingsland – City of Hobart
- Paul Labus – The Nature Conservancy

Committee/Program Reports:

Program Update – Maggie Byrne

The Annual Coastal Zone Great Lakes Meeting was very successful and all participates very much enjoyed the field trip and presentations. The Dunes Annex building is currently undergoing renovations that should be completed in about four months. The staff is set up at the main Dunes Office for the time being. Maggie also recently attended half a day of the Great Lakes Commission which was held in Indianapolis.

Indiana is now able to send a letter of intent for the Coastal Resiliency Study. The State is not committing any funds or resources to the study at this time, but it states that we approve of the study.

Grants – Sarah Nimetz

Sarah has completed the first of three Gary Grant Administration Workshops. The second workshop will be next week. During these workshops, she plans to teach City of Gary employees how to write and manage grants. She answers questions and builds the next workshop around what the audience is interested in hearing. If any organization is interested in their own workshop please contact Sarah.

The full proposal workshop will be on November 21st.

We are still waiting for NOAA approval for the 2017 grant extensions and 2018, 306A grant projects

Outreach – Katie Vallis

SepticSmart week was September 17th – 21st. During this time Katie and Deb delivered a few materials to 17 partners. There was also a press release issued.

The unveiling of the Marsh Poster will be November 7th.

Planning – Sylvia Collins

Sylvia is working with Deb on the Wetlands assessment. She will be doing a functional assessment for the model wetlands ordinance. In early November she will be participating in a webinar. During this webinar, states will be able to share and learn from each other in regards to wetland issues.
She is also working on an ADA assessment and has just completed the literary review. Working with the park departments, she has selected eleven parks that will be a part of the ADA assessment.

**Nonpoint/Septic – Maggie Byrne**

Deb is working with NIRPC and Save the Dunes on the 319 Grant. This grant will also include an outreach component to include the Good Neighbor Program. Deb is also working on wetland mapping that will include the creation of specific tools that will users will be able to access.

**Ecological – Derek Nimetz**

Derek led a hike at McCloskey’s Burr Oak Savanna on September 15th. He announced that it was very successful and that there will be more hikes in the future. Derek will be attending and presenting at the Natural Areas Association Conference in Bloomington.

**Next Meeting – December 19th, 2018 @ 10:00 AM CST**

Emergency Management Conference Room
100 E. Michigan Blvd.
Michigan City, IN 46360