

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Porter County – Indiana Dunes State Park – Chesterton, IN

August 20, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. CDT

Attendees:

Voting Board Members Present:

Tiffany Tolbert (Chair/Indiana Landmarks), Richard Morrisroe (Planner - East Chicago Planner), Ken Purze (LaPorte County Citizen), Dan Plath (Industry/Business - NiSource), Geof Benson (Porter County Cities and Towns – Beverly Shores), Nicole Barker (Environmental Advocacy - Save the Dunes), Ray Joseph (Parks/Recreation - Porter County Parks), Bob Daum (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore), Shem Khalil (Chamber of Commerce - Global Engineering), Kris Krouse (Land Trust - Shirley Heinze Land Trust),

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Ashley Snyder (IDEM), Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS), Young Choi (Purdue Calumet), Leslie Dorworth (IN/IL Sea Grant), Kathy Luther (NIRPC)

Non-Board Members Present: Cory Johnson (Indiana Landmarks Intern), Daniel Goldfarb (Wildlife Habitat Council), Michael S. (Riverwatch), Brad Bumgardner (Indiana Dunes State Park)

LMCP Staff Present: Maggie Byrne, Dorreen Carey, Derek Nimetz, Margaret Palicka, Mike Molnar

Old Business:

June 18, 2014 meeting minutes approved without discussion.

Elections:

Vice Chair is vacated (previously Lake County City and Town Commissioner). Christine Livingston (previously secretary) agreed to move up to Vice Chair.

Nominations for Secretary: Dan Plath nominated Kris Krouse. Bob Daum nominated Dan Plath. Duties are to prepare minutes, keep the roll, keep track of attendance, and assume duties of Vice Chair (if absent).

3 votes for Kris Krouse.

6 votes for Dan Plath.

Dan Plath elected Secretary for remainder of term expiring at start of April, 2015 meeting.

Lake County City or Town position still remains open as a voting position. The vacancy is filled by an interested member within the coastal work environment.

Presentations:

Kathy Luther is presenting on the Marquette Plan on behalf of NIRPC. The Marquette Plan has been partially funded by the LMCP (Phase 1 \$160,000, Phase 2 \$125,000, Phase 3 \$50,000). The vision and strategy is to create a livable lakefront. "Live, work, stay, and play." The project is part of the NIRPC 2040

Comprehensive Regional Plan (2040 CRP). Phase 1 was completed in 2005 in Lake County and Portage. Phase 2 included Porter and LaPorte County. The goal is to capture 75% of the lakefront for public use, continuous multi-use trail from state line to state line, and minimum set back of 200 feet for any new shoreline development. The update will stitch together Phase 1 and Phase 2 for a total of 45 miles, and add the Cultural Resources thematic layer.

Brad Bumgardner presented on the Indiana Dunes State Park bird migration study. 60 million people in the U.S. are birders – defined by either traveling more than 10 miles from their home to see a bird or actively identify bird species around one’s home. There is a three year study funded by the LMCP to document the birds flying over the beach at the State Park. There are almost one million birds that have been documented and 369 species. In the state of Indiana, there are about 120 species that are common.

Committee and Staff Reports:

Program/Staffing:

Margaret Palicka will be finishing her employment with the DNR at the end of August. The Operations Manager position is still open. A survey was sent out a few months ago from NOAA regarding the LMCP Program Review. The Public Meeting is scheduled September 9 at 5pm at the Dunes Nature Center. The three focus areas identified for the program review include: staffing, community investment (the Marquette Plan and the J.D. Marshall Shipwreck), and the 6217 Non-Point Source Pollution plan.

Education/Outreach:

The Education and Outreach Committee met last month to discuss the new poster unveiling. The new poster is scheduled for print and release at the end of September or the beginning of October. The poster is focused on rivers. Stay tuned for updates.

Grants

On July 23, the 2015 Coastal Grant pre-proposal RFP was released. Three grant workshops were held, one in each county. Pre-proposals are due September 12, 2014. A Grants Committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future. At the October 15 Coastal Advisory Board meeting, the recommended pre-proposals will be presented to the Coastal Advisory Board by the Grants Committee. 2011, 2012, and 2013 funding cycle financial reporting and financial reimbursements are currently being reviewed, along with the grant agreements for the 2014 funding cycle. Funding is now available for small grants. The NOAA Navigating Rough Seas Planning and Facilitating Collaborative Meetings workshop went very well with 22 people in attendance. Workshop coordinators traveled from South Carolina and Mississippi to host.

Non-Point Source – Septic Awareness Week is a national event from September 22 – 26, sponsored by the EPA. Dorreen is working with local towns and municipalities to educate about best management practices. Educational materials can be provided during the week upon request.

Coastal Habitat – The CELCP committee hasn’t met recently. Funds awarded for the Moon Valley project may be awarded for other land acquisition projects – awaiting projects from 2015 Coastal Grants Pre-proposal process. The DNR, Division of Nature Preserves has been identifying natural areas to protect through a “Scorecard” process. A meeting will take place on August 22 to focus on which areas are most important to protect within the state.

Announcements:

Public Meeting with NOAA for the LMCP Program Review - September 9 at 5 pm at the Nature Center

Septic Awareness Week September 22 – 26

Ecosystem River Poster revealing at the end of September or early October

DNR Trails Advisory Board - September 4 at Michigan City Krueger Memorial Hall, 3pm

National Park Service Pullman Community Meeting – September 21, 6pm, Pullman Clock Tower

Next Meeting October 15th, evening meeting, 6:30pm in LaPorte County.

Meeting Adjourned.