

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday December 21, 2016

10am CST

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

6100 Southport Road

Portage, IN 46368

Attendees:

Voting: Cathy Martin (Save the Dunes/Environmental Advocacy), Jim Alexander (NiSource/Industry), Shannon Eason (Park and Recreation/Michigan City Parks), Tim Kingsland (Lake County City or Town / Hobart), Christine Livingston (Indiana Dunes/Tourism), Richard Morrisroe (Citizen at Large - Lake), Ken Purze (LaPorte County – Economic Development), Tiffany Tolbert (Indiana Landmarks/Historical)

Non-Voting: Kathy Luther (NIRPC), Leslie Dorworth (IISG), Keith Gustafson (Agriculture)

LMCP Staff: Mike Molnar, Maggie Byrne, Kacey Alexander, Derek Nimetz, Kaitlyn McClain, Dejan Koch, Sharon Partridge

Public: Dorreen Carey, Michelle Caldwell (IDEM), Chelsea Cottingham (IDEM), Lynda Lancaster (NPS), Michael Rea (DNR)

Old Business:

October Meeting Minutes were approved

New Business:

2016 Year in Review

Grants Program 2016 Year in Review presented by Maggie Byrne

Maggie provided a brief overview on her activities for the past year. For the 2017 Funding Cycle, 25 projects were submitted for pre-proposal. The Coastal Advisory Board recommended 20 projects for full proposal. Out of the 20 recommended for full proposals, 18 were submitted.

The Small Grants Program is being overhauled and streamlined for the New Year. The due dates for small grants are January 15th (17th in 2017) and July 15th (17th in 2017). The proposal form has also been updated to resemble the Pre-Proposal form. The form will require additional information to better

explain the project upfront. Moving forward, Grant Assistant D.J. Koch will be in charge of the Small Grants Program.

Maggie briefly touched upon the “Funding Referral Service” that she has developed and what will be coming in the future.

The suite of services offered:

1. Funding Source Matrix – Compilation of various government and private grant programs which includes information on each grant program.
2. Grant Programs Timelines – This tool, coming in 2017, will allow funding-seekers to better plan. They will be able to see at a glance important dates for various grant programs.
3. Government Grant Capacity Building Workshops – Coming in 2017, these workshops will cover basic grant writing principles and advice on grant writing.

Year in Review presented by Dejan Koch

During the year 2016, DJ worked on organizing, clearing out and sorting old files to make room for more employees. The 2015 and 2016 project summaries are now complete and up on the website. DJ has begun to conduct site visits and reviews for the 306A Projects. The projects are required to be maintained for 20 years per the Grant Agreement that was signed. He completed a total of 26 project site evaluations and with few exceptions most were found to be well maintained. DJ is working on following up with the sites that show signs of poor maintenance with the goal of assisting the project owners to get on track towards full compliance.

2016 Year in Review: Planning presented by Kaitlyn McClain

Kaitlyn has given the Technical Assistance Planning Program (TAPP) Toolkit a much needed revision. The revision includes updated and new resources. It’s also more web-friendly and can be found here: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/9396.htm>.

She has also worked on developing a needs assessment regarding what is desired for a Coastal Training Program before it was sent out to bidders. This included conducting informal interviews with NERRS CTP Coordinators as well as local stakeholders. Kaitlyn also worked with the planning Committee to develop a logic model and online survey for stakeholders. She used the developed needs assessment in order to develop a RFQ to send to bidders. Once the proposals were reviewed by staff, a firm was selected and now is in the contract process.

A Coastal Hazards planning document was developed as well in 2016. The document contains the topics of wave and beach dynamics, resilience and sustainability as well as shoreline structures and community maps. The document also includes model ordinances that could be used by local governments. The document can be found here: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/9334.htm>.

2016 Year in Review presented by Sharon Partridge

Since her hire in October Sharon has been work on getting the remaining unapproved management measure approved. In 2016 four (4) management measures were approved including: pesticide management, grazing management, protection of wetlands & riparian areas and enforceable policies.

The remaining policy is septic system inspection. She is working to get this completed by September 30, 2019, which is the NOAA/EPA deadline. One of the goals is to have septic systems inspected at a frequency adequate to ascertain whether the system is failing. A second goal is to continue outreach and education strategy to decision makers, realtors, and septic system owners. In the spring of 2016, LaPorte County adopted a property transfer inspection ordinance that requires septic systems to be inspected whenever the ownership of property is transferred. Work is continuing to encourage both Porter and Lake County to do the same.

Natural Resource Management presented by Derek Nimetz

Derek touched upon four main project areas of interest in his presentation. These project areas included technical assistance, outreach, nature preserve restoration and management and monitoring.

Derek provides technical assistance when requested. He reviews prescribed fire burn plans, gives restoration project suggestions, assists with property management planning and provides native plant review and suggestions. During the year, he provided outreach in many different forms through field days, writing articles for Outdoor Indiana, giving guided hikes, attending the savanna poster event and a dedication and trail opening event. Derek also manages McCloskey's Burr Oak Savanna, Liverpool Nature Preserve, Dunes Nature Preserve, and Moraine Nature Preserve. Lastly, he spoke about the monitoring he does of deer browse, rare plants and insects.

Year in Review Operations presented by Kacey Alexander

During a given year, Kacey will review and receive Quarterly Financial Reports and work with grantees on any issues. Once the Financial and Progress Reports are approved, they are paid either as a partial or final payment. The Department of Natural Resources began a new contracting process this year in which all contracts/grants will be signed electronically. Kacey has been providing technical assistance as needed to help grantees work their way through the new system. Beyond these tasks, she works on things such as Coastal Advisory Board minutes, budget reviews, website updates, payment of invoices, purchase of supplies and archiving old files. One of the projects that she worked on was developing an enforceable policy summary table for federal consistency.

Program Management presented by Mike Molnar

Mike briefly spoke about LMCP's funding. Overtime, program funding has decreased, however, during the year 2016; there has been an increase in funding. During the year, we were also able to hire two new staff members in the roles of Coastal Resource Planner and Special Projects Coordinator. In the New Year, Dorreen Carey will return in a part-time role as a Non-Point Education Assistant.

This year the Coastal Advisory board saw a few new changes. One of the Stakeholder Group Definitions was revised to being At-Large in order to help attract a planner to the board. The board also welcomed three new members through the year and hosted a field trip.

The annual Shipwrecks Partnership meeting between several DNR divisions was conducted. Current issues were discussed as well as the future plans for each division. The current issues of concern include high lake levels and the wash up of debris. Future work includes development of SOPs, jurisdictional items, outreach and education.

Mike briefly spoke about his involvement in different CSO workgroups, the events that were a part of the Lake Michigan Coastal Awareness Month and the Savanna Poster event. Before the meeting came to a close, he handed out certificates of perfect attendance to four members of the board and thanked them for their involvement.

Next Meeting – February 15, 2017 @ 10:00 AM CST – Informational Meeting – LaPorte County – Michigan City – City Hall – Emergency Management Conference Room