

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday October 19th 2016

6:30 pm CST

Hobart Community Center

111 E. Old Ridge Road Hobart, IN 46342

Attendees:

Voting: Cathy Martin (Save the Dunes/Environmental Advocacy), Shannon Eason (Park and Recreation/Michigan City Parks), Paul Labus (Local Natural Resource Management/TNC), Richard Morrisroe (Citizen at Large - Lake), Jeffrey Katz (Porter County City or Town / Beverly Shores), Kim Swift (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore), Tim Kingsland (Lake County City or Town / Hobart), Christine Livingston (Indiana Dunes/Tourism), Kenneth Purze (Chamber of Commerce), Tiffany Tolbert (Historical Resources)

Non-Voting: Kathy Luther (NIRPC), Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS), Leslie Dorworth (IL IN Sea Grant)

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

Public: Natalie Johnson (Urban Waters), James Alexander (NiSource), Michelle Caldwell (IDEM)

Before the meeting began Mike Molnar spoke in regards to the Chair position now being open due to Dan Plath accepting a new job thus leaving the board. He suggested the option to the board of having the Vice-Chair take over the Chair position, the current Secretary moving to the position of Vice Chair and the Secretary position being left open until elections in February. A motion was made to accept this and the board approved it.

Kathy Luther is the new Chair

Ken Purze is the new Vice-Chair

Old Business:

August meeting minutes were approved

New Business:

Coastal Grants Pre-Proposal – M. Byrne

Before Maggie discussed the list of Pre-Proposals to be recommended for submittal as Full Proposals, Leslie Dorworth briefly presented the selection process for pre-proposals. The Grant committee discusses and reviews the pre-proposals submitted 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.

Recommended

- Purdue University Northwest - Examining the benefits of Stormwater BMPs using a simulation model and field results
- Dunes Learning Center - Sustainable Agriculture Environmental Education Program at Chellberg Farm
- Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project – Lake Michigan Water Safety Outreach & Open Water Rescue Training
- Lake County Parks - Costakis Acquisition at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park
- Lake County Parks - Curtis Acquisition at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park
- Lake County Parks - Tsirtsis Acquisition at Deep River County Park
- City of Portage Parks and Recreation Department – Rice Property Acquisition on Salt Creek
- Town of Beverly Shores - Beverly Shores, Indiana Town Administration Building - Renovation / Restoration
- City of Hobart Sanitary/Storm Water District - City of Hobart, City Hall Parking Lot Green Infrastructure Project
- City of Whiting - Pocket Beach Enhancement Project
- Town of Dune Acres - Restoration of Clubhouse Dune - Units 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6
- City of East Chicago - East Chicago Marina Shoreline Enhancement Project
- Michigan City, Indiana, Department of Parks and Recreation - Winding Creek Cove Demonstration Project, Phase 3 Public Access
- Town of Michiana Shores - White Ditch Restoration Phase 2
- City of East Chicago - Riley Insurance Building Historic Project
- Alliance for the Great Lakes - Michigan City Land Acquisition Strategy
- City of Michigan City, Indiana, Department of Parks and Recreation - Design and Engineering of Fedder's Alley Public Access Boardwalks
- City of Lake Station - City of Lake Station, Stormwater Quality Master Plan

Recommended with Conditions

- Save the Dunes - Dunes Native Landscape Educational Program
 - Native garden demonstrations, invasive plant removal, and signage automatically make this project enter the Low Cost Construction category. Non-profits are not eligible for low cost construction. You're welcome to proceed with the workshops and presentations if you want to remove those things mentioned above from the proposal. Revise proposal by removing native garden demonstrations and signage, and reducing funding accordingly.

- Union Township School Corporation - Wetland Enhancement for Education
 - Please limit your project to planning only. Remove any kind of on-the-ground construction elements, and reduce funding amount request accordingly. Work with Maggie Byrne to iron out several other issues.
- Center for Underwater Science, Indiana University Bloomington - Muskegon (12LE0381) 3D Photogrammetry and Underwater Museum Interpretation
 - The 3D photogrammetric model portion of the project is fully approved. The Grants Committee expressed concern about removing the receiver pipe from the wreckage. If appropriate explanations can be made, that part of the project may also move forward. Can it be conserved in place? If not, please provide explanation as to why. Please explain where – in the Lake Michigan coastal region -- the receiver pipe from the wreckage will be displayed if it must be removed. If the decision is made to proceed with removing the receiver pipe, the project will now have to fit within the Low Cost Construction category, rather than the Planning/Coordination/Management category. Please be sure to check the “Other” box under Low Cost Construction. If you do not include the removal of the receiver pipe, the project remains in the Planning/Coordination/Management category.

Not Recommended

- Dunes Learning Center – Earth Partnership Curriculum
- Purdue University Northwest (Water Institute) - Evaluation of Instantaneous Concentration of Lead and Heavy Metals in Drinking Water Distribution Network in the Northwest Indiana
- Purdue University Northwest (Water Institute) - Solar Powered WWTP Digester
- Valparaiso University - Micro- and macro- plastics along Indiana's Lake Michigan Shoreline: extent and impact on ecosystem health

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 projects that they are involved with or would benefit from.

- Tim Kingsland – City of Hobart
- Richard Morrisroe – City of East Chicago
- Cathy Martin – Save the Dunes
- Kim Swift – Dunes Learning Center
- Shannon Eason – Michigan City

Funding Referral Service – M. Byrne

The Lake Michigan Coastal Grants Program can offer approximately \$600,000 per year in pass-through grant funding. Annually, we receive at least \$1 million in requests, which means that many great projects have to be turned away. In order to help our grant applicants and partners find alternate

sources of funding for the projects we are unable to fund, Maggie has developed a suite of services which we are calling our “Funding Referral Service.”

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.

Committee/Program Reports:

Program Update & Outreach - Mike Molnar

Sharon Partridge started as our Special Projects Coordinator on September 12th. Dorreen is currently on an extended leave and should be coming back next year in an outreach role.

Mike proposed to the board the option of making the planner position, which currently rotates to each of the three counties in the coastal region, an at-large position. The position has been open for a year and a half, and it is the hope that this change will allow the position to be filled. After a few questions, a motion was made to approve Mike’s suggestion.

The unveiling of our new Ecosystem poster on the Savanna will be on October 27th at 9:30am at:

Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
100 North Lake Street, Gary, IN 46403

Grants – Maggie Byrne

Maggie and DJ are following up on past Low Cost Construction and Land Acquisition Grant sites from the past fifteen -plus years to ensure that they are being maintained as required by their grant agreements. In accordance with the grant agreement sites are to be maintained for at least 20 years. A Grantee is made aware that their site is being visited and given the option of joining Maggie and DJ on the visit. During the visit, an evaluation sheet is completed and sent to the Grantee listing any potential issues and allowing the Grantee an opportunity to address them. If they are found not to be in compliance, and do not make the effort to bring the site up to compliance, they will have to pay back the grant funds they received.

Planning – Kaitlyn McClain

Proposals for the Coastal Training Program were received and will be reviewed. Work will hopefully begin in January.

Ecological/Stewardship – Derek Nimetz

NOAA will no longer be providing any funds for the CELCP program. The program had received limited funding from EPA through GLRI for the past few years. The level of funding received did not match the amount of effort required to administer a fully functional program.

Nonpoint/Septic – Sharon Partridge

Sharon has submitted a 319 proposal to IDEM for funds to complete a Septic System grant in regards to how failing systems affect water quality. The project also includes source identification.

Next Meeting – December 21th, 2016 @ 10:00 AM CST

NIRPC

6100 Southport Road

Portage, IN 46368