

**JOINT MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
AND URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP**

NIRPC- Lake Michigan Room

April 5, 2018

Minutes

Members/Guests: Bill Emerson, Jr., Jeannette Bapst, Geof Benson, George Topoll, Carolyn Saxton, Dave Lampe, Russell Hodge, Sarah Nimetz, Lynda Lancaster, Reggie Korthals, Sherryl Doerr, Tim Kingsland, Cherie Fishert, Lynne Westphal, Michael Kuss, Carl Wodrich, David Carr, Brad Baldwin, Derek Schmitt, Jim Semelka, Michaelle Caldwell, Gene Fleming, Cathy Mrain, Lauri Keagle, Leslie Dorwath, Drew Hart, Maggie Byrne, Kris Krouse, George Malis, Erin Steinhilber, Gary Brown, Joyce Newland, Elizabeth McCloskey, Peg Donnelly, Dave Banks, Tom D_____ (resident), Brenda Scott Henry, Jennifer Gadzala, Kyle Darton, Katherine Moore Powell, Richard Underkofler and Susan Mihalo.

NIRPC Staff: Trey Wadsworth, Kathy Luther, Joe Exl, Dominique Edwards and Mary Thorne.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Bill Emerson, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

NIRPC Business:

a) **Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Geof Benson and a second by Tim Kingsland, the March 1, 2018 EMPC meeting minutes were approved as presented.

b) **2050 Plan Development Milestones**

Trey Wadsworth presented an overview of the development of NIRPC's 2050 Plan, which will be brought before the Commission for adoption at its meeting in May of 2019.

c) Kathy Luther introduced Dominique Edwards, NIRPC's new Public Participation Planner.

Presentation:

Carl Wodrich, Director of Ecological Services, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, presented on the Indiana Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program. This program will fulfill mitigation permits as required by the Army Corps of Engineers, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water. For more information, contact Carl Wodrich at 317-232-1291 or cwodrich@dnr.IN.gov. The program may be viewed at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/heritage/8340.htm>.

Urban Waters Updates

- Jen Birchfield provided Northwest Indiana Urban Waters updates, including a summary of the January meeting, the 2018-19 work plan, and meeting dates for the rest of 2018. The next Urban Waters meeting is scheduled for July 20th at 9:30 am. She congratulated Nicole Messacar on winning the Learning Network Expert Award for Environmental Education and announced the US Steel consent decree public comment period. Grant opportunities included EPA Environmental Education grants, Legacy Foundation Neighborhood Improvement grants, National Urban and Community Forestry

grants, Groundwork USA Funding and Technical Assistance, Forest Service GLRI grants, Quick Impact Placebased grants, and NPS Challenge Cost-share grants.

The following updates were provided by partners:

- Sarah Nimetz provided an update on the public input process for the Lake Michigan Coastal Grants Program 2019 funding priorities, including an April 18th public meeting.
- Maggie Byrne provided an update on the Lake Michigan Coastal Program's Conservation Action Planning project, currently underway in partnership with Calumet Collaborative.
- Joe Exl provided an update on the CommuniTree Spring 2018 tree distribution and workshop. Joe also provided an update on the Deep River dam engineering feasibility study. The project is wrapping up and will likely enter the engineering phase.
- Drew Hart announced an opportunity to establish an Urban Forestry Apprenticeship Program in Northwest Indiana.
- Michael Kuss provided updates on the restoration of the Karwick former dump site and the Cheney Run wetland project.
- Carolyn Saxton announced the Great Lakes Initiative, a partnership of community foundations throughout the Great Lakes.
- Tim Kingsland announced that Hobart is installing outdoor learning centers and is looking for ideas and support.
- Cherie Fisher announced that the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund RFP will be released soon. New this year applicants will submit pre-proposals before full proposals. Preproposals are due May 15th and a webinar will be held April 17th.
- Geof Benson announced that EAB mitigation is underway at DLC's campus.
- Susan Mihalo announced that CWMA got USFS GLRI funds to map invasive species.

Announcements

- Indiana University - Environmental Resilience Institute - A survey is available online. The deadline is tomorrow, April 6th.
- A Summer Camp Open House will be held on April 7, 2018 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Dunes Learning Center. Contact Erin Crofton at ecrofton@duneslearningcenter.org
- The Friends of Indiana Dunes Native Plant Sale will be held on April 14, 2018 from 8 am - 1pm at the Dunes Visitor Center. Contact Zella Olson at zrolson@comcast.net for more information.
- A Public Input CAB Meeting - 2019 Priorities by the DNR - Lake Michigan Coastal Program will take place on April 18, 2018 at 6:30 pm at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion. Contact Sarah Nimetz snimetz@dnr.IN.gov for more information.
- Green Drives Conference and Expo by South Shore Clean Cities will be held on May 17, 2018 from 8 am - 4:30 pm at Northern Illinois University Naperville Conference Center, 1120 E Diehl Rd., Naperville, IL. Contact Laurie Keagle at lkeagle@southshorecleancities.org or the website.
- A Training on Early Detection of Invasive Plant Species by Indiana Coastal Cooperative Weed Management Area will be held on May 31, 2018 at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Contact Susan Mihalo at smihalo@tnc.org. This training is for stewardship staff or city park staff.
- Construction Site Inspectors Training Certification, provided by National NPDES Training Institute Indiana MS4 Partnership will take place on June 11-12 in West Lafayette, IN. Contact Reggie Korthals or www.indianams4.org
- The 7th Annual Hobart Water Festival by the Hobart Stormwater District will be held on June 16th, from 10 am - 4 pm at Festival Park. Contact: Sherryl Doerr at scherr@cityofhobart.org for more information.

The next meeting of the Environmental Management Policy Committee will be held on May 3, 2018 at 9 a.m.

Hearing no other business, Bill Emerson adjourned the meeting at noon.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at 219-763-6060 or mthorne@nirpc.org should you wish to receive a copy of it.