



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tony Evers, Governor
Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary
Dawn Vick, Division Administrator

MINUTES
WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING
Oak Creek Wisconsin (virtual)
Thursday, February 16, 2023
10:00 AM

- I. **Call to Order** at 10:00 am
- II. **Approval of Agenda** moved and approved
- III. **Approval of Minutes** (February 16, 2023) moved and approved
- IV. **Introductions:** Larry MacDonald, Dawn Vick, Sharon Cook, Mike Halsted, Jim Hurley, Cheri Hagen (for DNR), Ken Leinbach, Linda Nguyen, Greg Coulthurst (for Bill Schuster), Bob Wirsch, Chuck Wagner, Joel Kitchens

Also present: Mike Friis, Todd Breiby, Lauren Leckwee, Hannah Paulson, Emily Rau, Lydia Salus, Kate Angel

- V. **Welcome** City of Oak Creek

Aldersperson Lisa Marshall welcomed the council and talked about the history of the Oak Creek waterfront project. City Engineer Sue Winnen went over Wisconsin Coastal Management's support. Both Lisa and Sue mentioned that they couldn't have done the projects without the Council's and Program's involvement. Sue talked about multiple WCMP-funded projects, including the Lakefront Redevelopment Action Plan (2010), Oak Creek Shoreline Stabilization work (2013), ADA accessible trails at Lake Vista Park (2015), and the 2018 Southeastern Wisconsin Coastal Resilience Project-funded effort. One key outcome from the Southeastern Wisconsin Coastal Resilience project was it introduced city staff to Wisconsin Emergency Management staff, which is leading (hopefully) to FEMA funding.

Sue shared slides showing the eroding conditions of the North Bluff. The project will have 2-3 phases: the first is to stabilize the bluff. The overall goal is to turn an environmental capping effort into a community amenity. They focused on keeping the park natural and to "touch the water." Lisa mentioned it is very important to the council that the park is accessible to everyone.

Chuck asked if there is any plan to do dredging at Bender Park. Sue said Bender Park is owned and operated by Milwaukee County (although it's located in the City of Oak Creek). They will continue to monitor it and hope to work with the county on it. Mike Friis said he's talked with the Milwaukee County Parks about long-term plans.

Sharon asked what the timeline is. Sue shared some designs – the revetment should be done by the end of the year. Mike Halsted how will the revetment impact the outsides of the project? Susan discussed the impacts of the water treatment plant and armored shoreline which have caused neighboring properties to receive less sand. They learned about the impacts through the Southeastern Wisconsin Coastal Resilience project and that knowledge helped them to decide to purchase the bluff piece from the property owners. They have determined the upcoming work won't have negative impacts to neighboring properties.

Larry thanked Lisa and Sue for their presentation and hopes to visit them in the future.

- VI. **Public Comments** None

VII. Action Items: Report of the Project Selection Committee

Mike mentioned the PSC and the memo that the Council had received. Kate read the recusals they had received.

The following recusals were shared with staff:

- Jim Hurley recused himself from proposals 101, 103, 404, and 406.
- Sharon Cook recused herself from proposals 206 and 504.
- Cherie Hagan/Jim Zellmer recused themselves from project 202.
- Ken Leinbach recused himself from project 403.
- Paula McGuire/Senator Bob Wirch recused themselves from projects 102, 201, and 503.

Sharon moved to approve the projects identified for funding at the 2023 PSC meeting with noted abstentions provided to staff. Seconded.

Jim Hurley asked to discuss something. Jim said he knows that the Council is approving what is in front of them, but there is also about \$50,000 left in play. He read a prepared statement regarding project 409. His experience would lead him to not recommend funding the PI.

Jim shared his written statement:

“From personal observation and as a member of the Wisconsin Coastal Management Council, I would be uncomfortable with any funding, including program development funding, to be awarded to the principal investigator of Project 409. Sea Grant staff have conveyed to me that due to hostile and intimidating behavior displayed by the principal investigator, they will not continue any professional relationships. My personal experience leads me to recommend that the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program not commit any additional funding to this investigator.”

Motion passed (as written). Jim Hurley abstained from voting.

VIII. Reports

A. Updates from SEWRPC: Zachary Kron, Conservation Biologist, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Zachary Kron introduced himself and talked about coast-related efforts from SEWRPC. He spoke about planning efforts and the Chloride Impact Study. He discussed Technical Assistance. Zach mentioned CALM and SEWRPC’s participation. Zach highlighted the Environmental Corridor Projects. He discussed the Regional Natural Areas Plan Update: <https://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPC/NaturalResources/RegionalNaturalAreasPlan.htm> He went into detail on the Natural Areas Plan update and different aspects of the effort.

Mike Halsted mentioned their winter maintenance website for ways of reducing road salt. Great studies from UW and other resources. Mike shared the link: <https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/newsroom/news-rel/41922brinestudy.aspx>

Zach mentioned the raw data from their studies is on their website, as well.

B. Municipal Water Use Trends: Hannah Paulson, Keillor Fellow, Wisconsin Sea Grant and Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

Hannah Paulson shared a research project that she started as a student at University of Michigan, looking at municipal water use. She gave background on the Great Lakes Commission’s reports on water use in the basin and shared slides on water withdrawals. The project focused on public water supply: with some caveats about changing reporting protocols for about half the jurisdictions, there was about a 5% decrease from 2012-2018. Hannah discussed the research, results, and potential implications. Hannah and the Council members discussed the results of the study.

C. The Southeastern Wisconsin Coastal Resilience Project: Adam Bechle, Coastal Engineering Outreach Specialist, Wisconsin Sea Grant

Adam Bechle said he was a fellow with WCMP in 2016, and he wanted to mention how valuable that experience was. The fleet of fellows that Coastal has are fantastic right now.

Adam shared background on the project. The project started from a project with David Hart and Sea Grant, an Integrated Assessment on erosion and bluffs and coastal resilience needs in Wisconsin. Adam led an effort to apply for a NOAA Coastal Resilience Project. WCMP received over \$800,000 for the project. Partners included WCMP, SEWRPC, Sea Grant, and UW College of Engineering.

The goal of the project is to help communities in southeastern Wisconsin region to prepare for coastal hazards. The project team organized a community of practice, provided data on bluff and shoreline erosion/recession, created new guidance on practices to address hazards, and wrapped all those things together by helping communities to identify and implement local projects. Adam and the project team facilitated meetings, developed a website, <https://wicoastalresilience.org/>, and published a coastal newsletter.

Adam shared photos of the shoreline viewer, <https://floodscience.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/minimalist/index.html?appid=c47ab45bb8c046e099a46df28837ca88>, and talked about WCMP's support of oblique photo viewer. The information and site are a valuable resource.

Adam shared the guidance documents developed through the project, including the Property Owner's Guide to Protecting Your Bluff: <https://publications.aqua.wisc.edu/product/a-property-owners-guide-to-protecting-your-bluff/>, Nature-Based Shoreline Options for the Great Lakes Coasts: <https://publications.aqua.wisc.edu/product/nature-based-shoreline-options-for-the-great-lakes-coasts/>, and the Great Lakes Beach Resilience Guide: <https://wicoastalresilience.org/great-lakes-beach-resilience-guide/>

He discussed funding to local communities. Lessons learned include the experience that developing and growing a network strengthens partnerships; newsletter proved highly valuable; maintaining a network and contacts is an ongoing process; and dedicated funding for implementation helps put communities in action. Adam talked about expanding the approach and CALM, CHAOS, and the East River Collaborative.

D. Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Updates: Mike Friis, Manager Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

Staff provided supplemental information for the written program updates. Kate mentioned the fellowship announcement shared a link to the New York shoreline viewer: <https://gisservices-test.dec.ny.gov/gis/glv/>
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Todd mentioned multiple projects, including Peshtigo. Said another GLRI-funded projects, will be working on developing plans to address culvert issues and sedimentation issues and habitat improvement opportunities that are impacting Kimballs Bay in Pokegama Bay. Coastal staff are part of multi-year effort on Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency study, looking to assess and plan to address coastal resiliency.

Lauren mentioned the Wisconsin Wetlands Association conference. She is working on reporting to NOAA as well as a funding release for the upcoming WCMP grants. Mike mentioned Lauren has been spending a great deal of time with 306A projects, those that have construction, restoration, or acquisition components. Lauren confirmed that Wisconsin averages far more 306A projects per year than other Great Lakes states.

Lydia gave updates on the CALM project. The SEWI CR project gave a lot of momentum for the CALM project. She has been continuing putting out the Great Lakes Coastal Newsletter and added a "collaboration classified" section to that where communities can put in requests to the rest of the network and have made a few connections that way. CALM hosted virtual quarterly meetings as well as field trips in the fall. The trips included Samuel Meyers park in Racine and Virmond Park in Ozaukee. She is working on virtual walking tours via story maps and on case studies.

Emily gave an update on the competitive Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding. Staff hope to hear about our application soon. She also worked on a plan and products for outreach. She shared a link on a one-pager she completed: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/CoastalInitatives.aspx>

Tomorrow is Emily's last day as a fellow and on Tuesday she will be starting a new position, working with NOAA and will be Wisconsin's liaison. Mike thanked her for her work as a fellow and on the BIL funding opportunity.

Hannah said her work has focused on the Coastal Hazards Manual. She is also working on some research projects she carried over from grad school.

Larry mentioned that Mike has a new position in DOA. Dawn said Mike received a promotion and is now a bureau director.

IX. Updates from Coastal Management Council

Jim Hurley had to join a panel meeting before the updates portion of the meeting. He shared the following in the chat:

Sea Grant update is that we're in the midst of proposal season. Preproposal numbers were low, but quality remained high. Proposals responded well to target areas of Emerging contaminants, climate change and DEIJ. Full proposal panel in July. Funding starts in Feb 2024. Be sure to check out the podcast "the Water We Swim In". Season 2 has just begun. Podcast addresses DEIJA issues in Wisconsin. Bonnie Willison just received two national awards for first season. Linked here: <https://www.seagrants.wisc.edu/audio/the-water-we-swim-in/>

Larry said the Viking Cruise ship will not be coming back to Bayfield this year – not sure why. Bayfield is considering implementing paid parking in town. The City is taking over management of the marina. Book Across the Bay (cross country ski race) is going to happen.

Mike Halsted said on Feb. 2, Governor Evers announced the 2023 Harbor Assistance Awards: distributed \$5.3 million to 7 projects. President Biden visited the state and mentioned a project in Green Bay that will move an existing harbor facility to the mouth of the Fox River. That leaves a lot of land closer to the business district available for development. Mayor Cavalier Johnson from Milwaukee toured Delong facility – there was a tour on Feb. 3. He shared the several links: <https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/doing-bus/bildisc.aspx>
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/3454e5c>
<https://www.cbs58.com/news/development-project-at-port-milwaukee-months-from-completion>
<https://www.wearegreenbay.com/news/local-news/president-joe-biden-rallies-workers-in-wisconsin-after-big-speech/>

Greg Colthurst mentioned that one of their environmental leaders, George Evenson, passed away at 93. He previously served on the Council. The Council held a moment of silence.

Dawn said that the governor's budget came out this week. Nothing impacting coastal directly, a few things that may (positively) impact the Division of Intergovernmental Relations. Please reach out to Dawn or Mike if any questions arise.

Mike Friis said he may talk to Linda about a location for the June meeting.

Larry thanked staff and the presenters He also thanked the Coastal Council members for their work.

X. New Business None

XI. Adjournment Motion to adjourn passed at 12:52.

Next Scheduled Meeting: June 15, 2023 – Location TBD