

**Minutes**  
**Environmental Advisory Board**  
**15 November 2017**  
**Ogden Dunes Town Hall**

The Environmental Board met on 15 November 2017 at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were, Susan MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, Kristine Sandrick, Doug Cannon, and John Morris. Also present as a guest was Vicky Albritton.

Kristine moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 18 October 2017, with minor editing of typos. Jim seconded. The motion carried.

Susan started with the news story in this morning's *Chicago Tribune* about another chromium release at the US Steel Midwest Plant. The article did not say this latest release, on 25 October, was in the form of hexavalent chromium. Examination of the NPDES permit found only one reference to notifying emergency responders, with no indication of how bad the release should be before they would be notified. Only IDEM is notified in most cases. When Jim worked there, more than six years ago, IDEM was the only party he notified. Law students at the University of Chicago are assisting the Surfrider group, which advocates for water quality in Lake Michigan. They are proposing to bring suit to US Steel, saying the company has violated the Clean Water Act repeatedly. Jim moved that the Board ask the Town Council to look into potentially joining the Surfrider intent to sue, as a party affected by these releases. Doug seconded. The motion carried. Susan will pose the question to Natalie Johnson of Save the Dunes to see what the NPS thinks about this. John volunteered to monitor the IDEM Virtual File Cabinet for future notices about USS Midwest discharges. In a closing paragraph to the 31 October 2017 memo to IDEM concerning the latest discharge, USS asked that "this submittal be afforded confidential treatment under all applicable statutes." None of the parties possibly affected, not NPS, Indiana American Water, nor the Town of Ogden Dunes were notified.

The letter in response to the Environmental Assessment for the NICTD double tracking plan was sent to the Nicole Barker of NICTD. Next comes the Environmental Impact Statement, and we will need to watch for that.

The Lighting Task Force had not met, so had nothing new, but there was discussion about the lights at Indiana American Water. Doug says they are extremely bright. Chelsea was going to contact all the neighbors to see if a united front letter could be drafted. We may need to contact Chuck Litskow, as he is on the Water Board. Susan suggested to Kristine that a marketing campaign is needed for the task force.

Long Lake Marsh will need a cleanup this winter. January was suggested. Vicky's husband has students who may be helpful as labor.

The 2018 beach grant is prepared, but Susan did not have it with her. The plan is to have the same as this past year.

Jim said Chelsea helped scan the old MS4 exemption to a Word file. He just needs to clean it up. On 30 November, Carrie Hamilton, who prepared the original document, will be at Susan's.

Jim attended the Septic System Coordination Workgroup meeting. The houses in Long Beach that lost their septic systems to a storm have to shut down and haul out the remains. There is now a State law in place that says no septic within 200 feet of a waterway. The workgroup has a grant to map all septic systems and look for hotspots and leaks.

No news for recycling.

The Dune Acres Environmental Board is reconstituting itself. They are looking to our board for guidance.

The preliminary findings report for Indiana American Water lagoon was briefly discussed. The closure plan will follow, and we should comment.

There will be no meeting in December, unless there are issues to discuss about US Steel.

John moved to adjourn and Doug seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.