

Regular Meeting  
Ogden Dunes Environmental Advisory Board  
February 13, 2012  
Ogden Dunes Town Hall

Present: Susan MiHalo, John Morris, Gerry Lehman and Randi Light

A motion was made by Randi Light, and seconded by John Morris, to approve the minutes from the January 9 regular meeting and the January 30 Special meeting. The motion carried.

Judy Mollway has been appointed to the ODEAB and needs to be sworn in by the Clerk-Treasurer as soon as she gets back from vacation.

To follow up on the Gary Sanitary District (GSD) Permit, Susan MiHalo informed the Board that a meeting is being arranged with IDEM and all the commenting organizations to get questions answered. She invited others to join her at the meeting and will let everyone know when it is announced. Board members asked if there is a possibility the other contracted communities might have CSOs (Hobart, Lake Station, Merrillville), and it was clarified that that was not possible because all of the sewage from those communities go to GSD for treatment. Hobart tried to have its own facility built a few years ago and GSD successfully stopped that because they want the revenue from Hobart. Those communities still have to deal with stormwater issues, however. The biggest issue with GSD is the Long Term Control plan that provides a phased in approach that would provide measurements of progress.

Theresa Davis at the Porter County Waste Reduction and Recycling District (PCWRRD) has been emailed about who the contact is for battery recycling; and Susan will let Gerry Lehmann and Judy Mollway know the answer. (Note: Per Theresa's response it is still Steve Dolak.) Judy Mollway will take over monitoring the battery recycling.

To follow up on CFL recycling, PCWRRD has indicated that CFLs can be recycled at Lowes and Home Depot when you are buying new bulbs. Unbroken CFLs can be taken to the Valparaiso (SR 130) and the Boone Grove compost and recycling sites. When Judy returns the ODEAB will start looking into whether or not we could maintain a recycling site in Ogden Dunes that is compliant and safe. It is suggested that the old bulb be stored in the packaging that was used to store the new bulb. John Morris noted that the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) schedule for PCWRRD has been reduced from previous years.

A contact for USS Midwest still needs to be identified to help overcome noise pollution issues.

Looking at Precoat and AMROX compliance, nothing new has been uncovered. Gerry Lehmann suggested signing up for Google Alerts that will send you an email on certain industries or issues such as permits, IDEM, certain laws, etc.

Susan informed the group about the upcoming Little Calumet River East Branch Watershed Management Plan stakeholder meeting. This is a good way to overcome nonpoint source pollution issues in that watershed, which is very large. Susan cannot go to this meeting but plans to attend future meetings. The town is a stakeholder because of the issues that are created on our beach by nonpoint source pollution and urban runoff from all the communities in that watershed.

To maintain Long Lake Marsh, it is recommended by some sources to mow down to the ground in the early spring to keep down weedy species; and then to rake the cuttings as to not smother younger, smaller plants. Burning is not recommended this spring because some of the seeds could take up two years to germinate. Cottonwoods seedlings are also a problem. Gerry Lehmann will talk Jim Matthys to see if the Street Department's mower could handle the job. Need to be careful of the pegs holding the sock – mow

a few feet away from the sock. We could reimburse his department for the time spent from the ODEAB budget. If his mower cannot handle the job, Gerry will get some estimates on renting a bush hog. Susan asked if there may be other areas that could benefit from a bush hog as well if one is rented for a day, i.e., the path that goes from the soccer field to the Sand Tracks trail. Need to keep in mind this is a natural area, not a garden.

There was also a discussion about whether or not the bank stabilization sock is still necessary and could be filled in now with established plants that could be divided. Need to evaluate if the sock could be burned along with some cattail burning. Maybe the whole area could be burned next fall.

Susan has not heard anything yet on the beach grant. (Follow up note: just got a call this a.m. 2/16 from IDEM and they are worried beach act funding may be eliminated from EPA starting in 2013!)

Bank Swallows will be migrating and nesting soon. A discussion was held on whether or not to undertake netting the area ourselves or to give the homeowners instructions and information about why it might be helpful, how not to break the Migratory Bird Act (cannot disturb a nesting bird). We could advise them on the materials to use and the costs (Gerry says the soil nails are expensive). Gerry and Susan offered to walk the area again to assess whether or not the banks have sloughed enough over the winter to make the nesting area less attractive to the swallows.

Susan and John have been asked to be placed on the GSD CSO notification list. These are emailed. Need to contact Chesterton every year. Susan will try to find out how to get John on Valparaiso's CSO notification list.

A request to NIPSCO to host a workshop on their sustainability efforts will be deferred until the firehouse is done. The workshop would cover energy conservation, smart metering, electric cars and off-peak charging. Susan will find out on Facebook if people would be interested in attending a stand-alone workshop.

Carolyn Saxton forwarded a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant announcement on endangered species. There is an established connection between deer and invasives. Susan did not think this was a good time to pursue this grant. We have no endangered species identified, and the town is not positioned to manage a federal GLRI grant, which is very paperwork intensive based on Susan's experience with one at Save the Dunes. The minimum expenditure is \$25,000 with no match necessary. Also, the ODHA does not qualify for this grant because it is a 501(c)3 and not a 501(c)4 nonprofit. Groundwork would need to be laid in advance to pursue any large GLRI grant, i.e., we would need to have someone like Sandy O'Brien come into town to botanize the area and identify potential conservation targets. Susan will be meeting with the ODHA soon to discuss grant opportunities in the future.

The Indiana American Water (IAW) Grant announcement sparked more interest and is due March 16. The Board recommended focusing on the NIPSCO energy education effort this year, and will potentially plan for a grant on septic system education and maintenance next year, so by consensus no IAW grant will be applied for this year. The grant has a maximum of \$10,000. We received \$10,000 in 2007 when the demonstration rain garden was built, the "Every Drop Counts" educational booklet was produced, and the rest was used for cash match for the Long Lake Marsh grant. The IAW is a very easy grant to manage but has a short window of time for implementation of less than six months. This grant could also be used to support a Household Hazardous Waste program.