

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday June 17, 2020

10:00am CT

Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Voting: Jim Alexander (NiSource/Industry), Brad Miller (Historical Landmarks), Ross Pietrzak (Lake County City or Town / Hobart), Eric Bird (Local Natural Resource Management/TNC), Lynda Lancaster (Dunes National Park); Brian Breidert (Laporte County), Natalie Johnson (Environmental Advocacy)

Non-Voting: Kathy Luther (NIRPC), Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS); Derek Nimetz (DNR); Leslie Dorworth (IL/IN Sea Grant); Michael Spinar (IDEM)

LMCP Staff: Kacey Alexander, Derek Nimetz, Sarah Nimetz, Jenny Orsburn,

Old Business:

There was a quorum at this meeting and both December 2019 and June 2020 Coastal Advisory Board meeting minutes were approved.

New Business:

The first order of business was to elect a new chair and co-chair of the board. Lynda Lancaster was nominated by Natalie Johnson for chair of the board. She accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for chair as such the board voted and approved Lynda Lancaster as chair of the board. Lynda Lancaster nominated Eric Bird to be vice chair. There were no other nominations. The board voted and approved Eric Bird as vice chair.

The next order of business was the discussion of 2021 coastal grant priorities public input by Sarah Nimetz. This year the grant priorities will change just a little. They will be based on our 312 Evaluation Metrics. The project categories will be the same ones that we have always used. One of the priorities will be determined through public input. The NOAA 312 evaluation metrics help inform overall evaluation of Coastal Management Program by NOAA.

The survey for receiving input on project priorities is live on the Lake Michigan Coastal grants page starting June 17th until June 30th. Suggestions also may be e-mailed directly to Sarah Nimetz.

Program Reports:



Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

Program Information – J. Orsburn

Due to covid, we have received an extension for the 2017 until December 2020. Normally the close out for this grant would have been June 30, 2020. Jenny is looking for individuals to assist her with evaluating the role of the coastal advisory board and manual. She would like to create a working group to revise the board meetings to ensure we are getting the most we can out of them.

Work on the Prairie poster is coming along. We are hoping to have it completed in September.

LMCP Grant Program – S. Nimetz

The 2020 grants will hopefully be approved soon and the grants will start sometime in August or September this year. Sarah also wanted to remind everyone to vote for a priority before June 30th.

Coastal Area Resource Management – D. Nimetz

47 acres of prairie, savanna and wetland habitat are received at McCloskey's Savanna addition using NOAA CLEP funds. A three year restoration had begun at Suman Fen.

6217 Nonpoint source pollution program – J. Orsburn

We will hopefully be finishing off the last required 6217 measure to get the program fully approved. The last measure that we are working on is the Septic measure. Our final submission regarding measure is due to NOAA May 31st 2020.

LAMP/RAP Coordination – M. Spinar

The current LAMP schedule is being worked on and a draft is suspected to be submitted later this summer. Once the draft is open for public comments.

Coastal Planning – J. Orsburn

The nearshore habitat project has wrapped up and we are looking towards projects that will come out of this. Katie is working on the costal atlas. She is also working on Federal consistency requests.

**Next Meeting:
August 19, 2020**