

Lake County Coastal Plan Committee Minutes November 29, 2007

The Lake County Coastal Plan Committee hereby finds and determines that all formal actions were taken in an open meeting of the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee and that all the deliberations of the Planning Commission and its committees, if any, which resulted in formal actions, were taken in meetings open to the public in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Chairman Harry Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake County Planning Commission Conference Room, Painesville, Ohio. He welcomed the visitors: Mr. Rick Amos of Perry and Mr. Phil Haskell of Perry, Mr. & Mrs. Bud French of Willowick, and Max Sorensen of the Wagon Wheel in Madison to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Messrs. Allen, Advey, Buescher, Cain, Borchers (alternate for Ms. Deyfuss-Wells), Gilmer, Klco, Kraus, Landeg, Noble, Rutledge, Sholtis, Stephenson, Urbanski, Welch, Zeitz, and Messes. Foley Kessler and Keneven-Zanella. Staff present: Mr. Boyd, Mr. Webster, and Ms. Myers.

CHAIRMANSHIP

Mr. Allen turned the meeting over to Mr. Landeg, Vice-Chair after he announced he would be stepping down from the chairmanship. Mr. Landeg then asked nominations for Chairman from the floor.

Mr. Zeitz nominated Mr. Bruce Landeg and Ms. Keneven-Zanella seconded the nomination. Mr. Landeg thanked them and declined.

Mr. Urbanski nominated Mr. Jason Boyd and Mr. Welch seconded the nomination. Mr. Boyd accepted.

Mr. Advey moved to close the nominations and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".
Motion carried.

Mr. Landeg stated there was one nomination on the floor.

Mr. Urbanski moved to accept Mr. Boyd as the new Chairman of the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".
Motion carried.

Mr. Allen then relinquished the Chairmanship to Mr. Boyd.

Chairman Boyd thanked Mr. Allen for taking the Committee under his guidance to where it is today. He will continue to do the best he can to keep the movement going.

Mr. Allen was asked if he planned to continue as a member of Committee and he said would if the North Perry Village Council would allow him to as a resident of the Village unless the Committee would desire to keep him on in an ex officio position.

Mr. Advey moved to allow former Chairman, Mr. Harry L. Allen, Jr., to participate on the Committee for the next year in an ex officio capacity. Ms. Foley-Kessler seconded the motion.

Mr. Advey amended the motion to also include maintaining Mr. Bruce Landeg as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Vince Urbanski as Secretary for the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee. Ms. Foley-Kessler seconded the amended motion.

All voted "Aye".
Motion carried.

Mr. Urbanski moved to accept the amended motion and Mr. Welch seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".
Motion carried.

MINUTES

Mr. Cain moved to accept the minutes from the June 27, 2007 meeting as submitted and Ms. Foley Kessler seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

OLD BUSINESS

County Port Authority Update

Mr. Allen reported that the County Port Authority had gone through the transition of consolidating the Lake County Economic Development Center and a small residual responsibility for the Community Improvement Corporation. The Board is focused on finding and applying for federal funding. There were four pockets of funding which they are trying to understand and gain access. They hired North Shore Consultants to assist with this project.

The Port Authority has looked to see what regional and countywide projects are available for consideration. The Coastal Development Plan put together by this group stands at the head of the line. The six years of work that has gone into the plan has started to pay dividends at this stage of the road because the Port Authority is going to ask Mr. Boyd and the Board to delineate the engineering fee and costs for all the entities that were earmarked in that plan. The Authority will commence an effort through federal and state funding for this endeavor to match that need with available funds.

The Port Authority is going to do a regional rational study on the Lost Nation Airport and will send their recommendations to the Lake County Commissioners.

The Trans-Erie Shipping Symposium may also be of interest to this Committee. It will be hosted by the Lake County Port Authority and the Cuyahoga Port Authority. They are planning to bring all the port authorities together from Conneaut to Cuyahoga County at Mooreland in January, 2008 to discuss all the information that has been collected at this point with the goal in mind to develop the right strategies to make the best case for northeast Ohio.

Madison High School Student Art Program

Mr. Webster reported that he and Mr. Boyd had made some inroads in terms of working with the local school districts in order to get younger demographic involvement in the future of the shoreline. Last week they met with two teachers from the Art Department and Principal William Fisher at Madison High School, who also heads the High School Principals Association. They discussed having the students making drawings and having contests to show how they would like to see the shore developed and the amenities they would like to see.

Mr. Boyd added that there will be a competition with, hopefully, some press releases in the News Herald. He had given plans, ideas and projects to the Art Department. Madison High School is working on a brochure now that will be distributed to all the art teachers and then assigned to their classes. The drawings will be displayed at Lake Erie, the libraries, etc., under the umbrella of this Committee.

CMAG Projects

Mr. Urbanski, Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells and Mr. Boyd have been working on Coastal Management Assistant Grant applications during the last couple weeks for three projects. The grants' acceptances will not be known until March or April, but their contracts would not start until July, 2008.

Madison Township Grant – Mr. Boyd had worked with Mr. Advey and his staff on a \$40,000 grant application for Madison Township Park that will take the Park to the CDP project vision identified for that area. Mr. Landeg had helped him tremendously on this. If the funds are approved, the township will have an engineered site plan in place. This will include offshore breakwaters and potentially a small boat launch facility on the eastern side of the beach. Madison Township is the applicant.

Village of Fairport Harbor Grant – Mr. Boyd had assisted the Village of Fairport on a CMAG application for a bathymetric analysis project. This was a \$50,000 request to do a subsurface view of the bottom of the harbor area to learn the movement of the sand, how much sand is there, the quality of that sediment, and the condition of the breakwater. Fairport Harbor Village is the applicant.

City of Eastlake Grant – At the last meeting, Mr. Cain had suggested doing a grant to acquire the islands near the mouth of the Chagrin River. Mr. Urbanski had followed up on this by meeting with Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells and Mr. John Sima (Port Authority). The Eastlake Port Authority is the applicant; the "ask" is \$110,000 in State funds. They would acquire the property from the Lagoons Yacht Club and the Park District would work with them on some mutually acceptable language to manage the property.

Division of Water Grant

Mr. Boyd had stumbled across a Division of Water Cooperative Boating Facility Grant, which uses waterway safety funds. This is a construction grant and he plans to pursue it for the Perry area and to help potentially with the Madison project in the Spring.

NEW BUSINESS

Trust for Public Lands

During the Madison mansion firestorm a few months ago when the large home went to auction and we tried to preserve it for some public use, Mr. Boyd said a good relationship was developed with the Trust for Public Lands to help us with that grant application. Since then, Messrs. Urbanski, Allen and Boyd had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Dave Vasarhelyi and Neil Hess from the Trust to go over the Committee's plans in detail. They would like to participate with one or more of these projects to help finance them and get them off the ground.

Mr. Noble remarked that this was a great offer by TPL, but there would be costs involved with their assistance.

Mentor-on-the-Lake Correspondence & Infrastructure Easement

Over the years, the Committee has discussed getting involved in a pilot public/private partnership on some sort of significant stretch of shoreline with offshore barriers. Mr. Boyd received a letter yesterday from a group of landowners from Mentor-on-the-Lake from Overlook Park through Twilight Park/Mentor Beach Park. There are about eight to ten landowners who expressed an interest in potentially learning more about this public/private partnership if we can get some dollars together. There also may be some potential public access involved at Overlook Park where there is an infrastructure easement. Mr. Buescher added there was a storm sewer with a 60 ft. right-of-way with a minimum slide going down to the lake.

Mr. Buescher had mentioned to Mr. Boyd a couple weeks ago that the County Utilities Department placed the protection of this infrastructure at the top of their agenda. Mr. Boyd sent Utilities the CDP and asked, if they were going to be tearing up that portion of the coastline and if it was contiguous to the Park, to meet with them to show them what this Committee could do in addition to protecting that intake and possibly create more beach there.

Community Updates

The following community update reports were given:

- *North Perry Village – Mayor-Elect Klco* – Council approved the harbor plan. From that point, a referendum has been circulated. The Council is checking over the referendum for legalities and will decide what can be done at this point. In January, he will take office and the first thing on his agenda is to get this project going. For years, there were public meetings and it had been advertised as a harbor project, but it is more than that. It is a beach, a safe harbor, fishing and a lot more than just for the few people who have boats in their community. He is hopeful of being able to go forward in the Spring.
- *Perry Township – Mr. Welch* – Nothing more at this time.
- *Mentor-on-the-Lake – Mr. Buescher* – Adding to what Mr. Boyd had said, unbeknownst to him the City, Lake County Utilities and the U.S. Army Corps had met at the pump station.

The Corps had changed the status of the existing shoreline protection to failing. They were originally going to move the pump station, but the soil conditions along the bluff were not conducive to that. He reminded that group of the CDP plan as soon as he was informed of the situation and, at the same time, the residents on Salida expressed their interest in some outwater. He aims to get everyone headed in the same direction.

- *City of Eastlake – Ms. Keneven-Zanella* – They had hosted a presentation by the State of Ohio regarding floodplain building regulations. It was very enlightening and it looks as though some of the plans that they had put together are feasible. The State people gave them some ideas of what to do with zoning and setbacks.
- *Mentor – Kurt Kraus* – There was nothing to bring forward.
- *Madison Township – Mr. Advey* – Stanton Park information had been pretty well covered by Mr. Boyd earlier in the meeting. He stated the Township has \$474,000 in an ODOT account in Columbus. He thought they should look further into potential additional funding to see how they could make some use of it.
- *Fairport Harbor – Mr. Soltis* – He felt everything had been covered.

Wind Energy

Mr. Zeitz thought the members and the communities should give some consideration to wind energy. He could see the potential for this to be done in the lake or on the bluff; there were good spots for it; and the State has been supportive of it. Mr. Klco said North Perry Village already had a consultant studying this and he was in contact with the Ohio Wind Group and using the Renaissance Group in Kirtland, who figured their wind results were much better than those at Bowling Green.

Dredging

The Port Authority is planning to request as part of their 2008 budget that the Commissioners approve one-half the average year dredging costs for the three port authorities that are involved and, for providing those funds, they want to coordinate, initiate, negotiate, and activate best deals in how to manage these projects. They need to do some PR work that dredging is not just for safe navigation of pleasure crafts, but involves flooding, quality of life and everything else that contributes to good health in the counties. He asked to keep ideas flowing through them.

Floodplain Projects

Mr. Noble spoke up on two projects that were related. One in Painesville, concerning what the City is doing to restore floodplains along the Grand River, is very important and has downstream impact and he believed the Coastal Plan Committee should really be behind that project. Similarly, Lake Metroparks has made public that they have every intention of restoring the floodplain in the Warner Nursery property. The purchase of that property is, hopefully, days away from being consummated. There is as much importance to preserving floodplains along the two scenic rivers as protecting the shoreline of Lake Erie and they are interconnected.

Chagrin River Partners is also working on floodplains. Mr. Borchers said they are planning to redo some grants to restore some floodplains and would like to bring out community planners and engineers next year to discuss how to restore floodplains on construction sites over entrenched streams as part of the storm water BMPs.

Mr. Cain stated that the port authorities should all be cognizant of what is being done as the communities are doing their long-range planning when we start combining these things and where they will be having access points, points for all the contractors to be working from like the dredger's equipment, etc. because as these projects become bigger, like in North Perry Village, people keep bringing in bigger barges. The incident by Chagrin Lagoons where they had a steel wall and now had to replace it with steel walls that were 30 feet deep was, he believed, caused in part by one of the large barges parked adjacent to that property that kind of diverted the water flow and undermined it a little. This cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair and replace. This should be taken into consideration with construction as this body grows.

Mr. Landeg stated we are all more aware of the value of floodplains because of the flood in 2006. He brought a map that showed the County's system of roads and bridges that were lost totaling to \$3.2 million as a result of that flood and the new structures built. With FEMA coming in at 75%, the State giving 12 1/2% and, OPWC giving emergency money at 12%, the County got a great amount of new infrastructure. A floodplain is used during a flood to slow down the velocity of the water and spread the volume out until conveyance can occur at a slower and lower level.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Boyd noted that there were a handful of articles for the members to review in the package tonight.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting will be February 27, 2008. Mr. Boyd suggested moving the meetings to 6:00 p.m. and will send an email out to poll the members. Also future meeting dates will be held on May 28, August 27, and November 19, 2008. Locations are to be determined.

PRESENTATIONS TO HARRY ALLEN AS FORMER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Boyd read a quote signifying what Mr. Allen had done from Daniel Burnham, the architect who put the plan of Chicago together entitled "Make not little plans". He read a resolution of appreciation for Harry L. Allen, Jr. from the Lake County Planning Commission and the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee. He also handed Mr. Allen a fleece with the Committee's logo embroidered on it. Mr. Allen graciously accepted the tributes and said it had been a privilege to work with this group. He committed to working just as hard as a regular member to make sure progress continues forward.

Mr. Welch moved to approve the resolution for Mr. Allen. Mr. Klco seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Welch moved to adjourn the November 29, 2007 Lake County Coastal Plan Committee meeting at 7:47 p.m. and Ms. Foley Kessler seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".