

Lake County Coastal Plan Committee Minutes February 27, 2008

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 Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Lake County Planning Commission Conference Room, Painesville, Ohio.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Messrs. Advey, Cain, Gilmer, Hilston, Klco, Landeg, Sholtis, Tischler, Urbanski, Welch, and Ms. Neale. Staff present: Mr. Boyd, Mr. Webster, and Ms. Myers.

MINUTES

Mr. Klco moved to accept the minutes from the November 29, 2007 meeting as submitted and Mr. Cain seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

OLD BUSINESS

Madison High School Art Project Update

Mr. Webster reported that the art project with the Madison High School students in the Art Department at Madison High School should be completed by the end of the month. He expects to be contacted sometime during the first or second week of March with the results from the contest. The drawings will be displayed at Lake Erie College, the libraries, city halls, etc., under the umbrella of this Committee.

CMAG Projects

As mentioned in November, Mr. Boyd assisted Madison Township and Fairport Harbor with two CMAG cycle 12 grants. Mr. Urbanski and Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells and the Chagrin River Watershed Partners worked with the Eastlake Port Authority on another. These are all 50/50 grant dollars.

- Madison Township - The application for the Township was for lakefront enhancement dollars at Township Park to bring in an engineering firm to follow the concepts for this area mentioned in the Lake County Development Plan. Mr Advey says the Township has the match waiting. They are hopeful to be able to use some dollars they have and future state funding to construct it.
- Fairport Harbor Council has submitted a grant for \$51,000. This will be a 50/50 bathometric analysis for the harbor area. If anything should happen from this proactive step, this first set of engineering prints will be available to others for reference.
- Eastlake – A CMAG application was put together through the Eastlake Port Authority to acquire South Island from the Yacht Club at the mouth of the Chagrin River.

Mr. Urbanski explained the applications are being reviewed and the awards will be announced in May. He stated there were about 12 applications totaling about \$350,000 and there is \$250,000 available. There is a good chance that we will see at least one or more of these grants awarded. Mr. Boyd added the grant would start on July 1, 2008.

Mr. Gilmer questioned the Fairport Harbor project and how the results of the studies could be used. Mr. Boyd said this analysis could help with the future dumping of potential dredging materials, availability of the profile of the subsurface if a marina or a port authority does some improvements in the water, and for long-term engineering in the future.

Mr. Hilston explained that, in the lease that the Lake Metroparks executed with the Village to operate the park, they originally committed to putting in a jetty to protect the beach. This potential bathometric analysis would at least identify whether or how that jetty should be installed if that were to be done. Any long-term harbor development would have a better idea of where to take advantage of or make sure they do not get in the way of the sand flows.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal to the Lake County Port Authority

On January 9 or 10, Mr. Boyd went to introduce this group and their projects to the new Lake County Port Authority. The Port Authority asked what this Committee wanted from them. Mr. Boyd told them the Coastal Plan Committee would like to use the County Port Authority as conduit to Columbus or Washington to help bring in funding for bricks and mortar type projects along the Lake County coastline. The following four projects ranging from about \$1 - 3 million each were presented to them: (1)Madison Township – actual construction; (2)Perry Township – lakefront enhancement, senior center, erosion, beach creation; (3)Mentor Beach Park in Mentor-on-the-Lake, but owned by the City of Mentor, upgrade where the dance pavilion is located; and (4) Chagrin River corridor dollars to be able to use the funds for acquisition and engineering. After receiving letters of support from these communities, the request to the State was submitted via the Port Authority on their letterhead under the Director they had hired a few weeks prior.

Capital Budget Bill - 2009

Ms. Neale said she heard at the Lake County Breakfast last Monday that the 2009 Capital Budget Bill may be done in the Fall, but there is a potential it may be done before they go home. They also did not know how much the community portion was going to be.

Usually, there is no match for Capital Budget Bill funding.

Ms. Neale explained that the 2009 Capital Budget Bill works better if regions of the state organize it by giving their priorities. For example, Cleveland under different leadership would actually have a list that everyone would hammer out together, but this doesn't always happen. They try to expend it out so every legislator gets at least a little something.

Mr. Boyd had mailed packets to Senator Grendell, Representative Fende and Representative Schindel and had checked to see that the packets had been received.

Mr. Advey stated that the \$200,000 Madison Township has initially came from a State Capital Budget Bill. He recently requested another \$300,000 from the 2009 Capital Budget Bill for the Township. He said we needed to talk to these guys and send letters to them. A group is always better than an individual, but it boils down to your own rapport with the Senators and Representatives in Columbus as well as Washington, D.C. Mr. Eckert and Mr. Loftus indicated to Mr. Boyd that, if we wanted to be taken seriously, someone should go to Columbus. Letters of support for all coastal communities represented in this Committee should be sent to these three state legislators or to Mr. John Loftus through Mr. Boyd.

The Lake County Port Authority was the applicant on the request for 2009 State Capital dollars. Being a regional request, it would be helpful to get support letters from all the coastal communities. This body should send a letter supporting the Port Authority's request for state funds. Mr. Boyd agreed to pursue this and email some sample language to the members for their community's support letter.

Mr. Boyd stated the Port Authority was quick to point out that they were not here to endorse or make the Coastal Development Plan happen. They are an economic development entity focusing on shop retention/attractions and they were looking for projects on a regional scale.

Mr. Boyd noted that Rep. Steve LaTourette may possibly be placed on the Appropriations Committee next year. Ms. Neale said that Tim Ryan from Youngstown was on the Appropriations Committee and that he could be helpful. It probably would not hurt to let him know who we are too.

Mr. Advey asked if anyone from this committee was going on the Washington trip for the elected officials conference. Mr. Boyd said this presented a challenge to this board because it is an ad hoc committee to the Planning Commission and we would have to take this up with our Commission. The elected officials' conferences through NOACA will be held on May 8-9.

Community Updates

The following community update reports were given:

- Fairport Harbor Port Authority – Mr. Sholtis – They just let their dredging contract for \$40,000 for the launch area. They got notification that they were supposed to dredge the harbor. They did the southern portion down to the turning basin and now they will go north to the breakwall sometime in June or July. They will be using Huffmans and the dredging will be locally funded. There are some funds coming from the State that will help offset the cost.
- Fairport Harbor Village - Mr. Hilston added information on the Tall Ships to Mr. Sholtis' report. Ms. Linda Williams, L. C. Superintendent, and one of her associates are proposing that the Tall Ship Niagara come to Fairport Harbor in the Fall, probably the week before the Perch Fest. She is thinking of having all the students tour the Tall Ship and, at the same time, go through some kind of maritime or nautical history related to their school with an eventual goal of having a ship permanently and a land-based museum that could be educational where students could go through on a regular basis. Middle school age groups are being considered.
- Madison Township – Mr. Advey – At the Trustees meeting last night, a motion was made to offer Stanton Park to Lake Metroparks for \$1. He had just sent out the letter. It would be ownership, with no restrictions. The \$474,000 sitting in ODOD can be line itemed by the

Congressman and moved over to Metroparks for erosion control or whatever. As far as the Township Park is concerned, we have the match, there is additional money on hand, and they are waiting to see what happens with the CMAG application.

- Eastlake Port Authority – Mr. Cain. – Mayor Andrews is really on board now. He has actually donated some money to have one of the tugs break the ice in the mouth of Chagrin River, which has been very effective in diverting some of the ice flow. An agreement calls for the Port Authority to pay for the second round of ice breaking. We are looking to the waterfront as a very viable way to showcase Eastlake. We have the Coastal Development Plan and a lot of the community was excited about it, we are now getting down to the nitty-gritty of it. They have an economic development committee getting stalled because they don't know where to go or how the overlay zoning works. It is frustrating because different people are trying to do different things with it. He asked Mr. Boyd if he could find some time to help them coordinate their activities. People respect his opinion of what is going on. They would like to do some of the projects that were proposed on the shoreline, but people are very scared of adapting zoning and using overlay zoning and would appreciate some instructions. He also questioned what was being done to bring the Association of Port Authorities into alignment. Mr. Boyd said his understanding was that the Lake County Port Authority wanted to address this issue. There has been a meeting scheduled by Mr. Loftus for 2:00 p.m. Thursday at the Morley Library to see that the County and existing port authorities are on the same wavelength.
- Perry Township – Mr. Welch – He said there was nothing to add to what was said earlier in the meeting by Mr. Boyd.
- North Perry Village – Mr. Tischer – He apologized for not being at many of the last meetings because his father had required his presence before he passed away. He suggested, after all these community activities, that we should consider having a booth at these activities like the Mardi Gras, Perch Fest, Old Fashioned Days, Better in Mentor Days, etc., manned on a volunteer basis. He thought it would be a good way to reach out and touch people with our visions and plans. He thought this should be considered now to be able to create something to be used this Summer. It was the consensus this should be done.
- North Perry Village – Mayor Klco – The referendum is dead. JJR is waiting on one permit to be approved because a footprint had been changed, which is expected soon. They are requesting bids and are hoping to start construction in July and to finish in the Spring of 2009. The Village is looking into bonding for the harbor and will be delivering a pamphlet of what the harbor will look like with questions and answers on the back to be distributed sometime in March. Mr. Tischer added that they were creating a small community committee with one council member taking turns attending, but they will not be in charge. They are looking at Townline Park as a brand new park with new rules.
- Lake Metroparks – Vince Urbanski – There is not much to talk about that is Metropark related. He mentioned a main issue of the Advisory Resource Council is the Great Lakes Compact. Anyone who wanted more information on this matter dealing with water diversion from the Great Lakes should let him know and he could send them some links. It looks like the Ohio Senate will be propose a separate bill and will go to conference and the Senator in Wisconsin will be looking at the same issues that Senator Grendell has.
- Bruce Landeg – Hemisphere used to be a member of this group and he was wondering about their shoreline construction project. Due to the decline in the housing market, Mr. Hilston stated they probably will not be introducing more housing until the market gets better, but

looking more to the completion of the golf course. The IMG component where they will be building a golf and tennis academy will provide instructions to the public.

- *Mentor* – Mr. Boyd for Kurt Kraus – The Mentor Lagoons is moving forward with fuel docks and flush toilets. These will be on the May 4 ballot in Mentor. They have run against some very strong groups who want to keep this area very green. A restaurant is not in the picture at this time. They also will be dredging the mouth of the Harbor again this year.

Coastal Resource Advisory Council Appointment

Mr. Boyd stated Mr. Urbanski is on the Coastal Resource Advisory Council for ODNR Office of Coastal Management. Mr. Boyd had applied for membership and was accepted to the Council, which should help in getting the inside scoop in advance of it getting out. It is comprised of landowners, business owners, farmers, real estate and counties all within the south shore of Lake Erie. Hopefully, this will help with the knowledge of grants.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Boyd noted that there were a couple of good articles for the members to review in the package tonight. He mentioned the American Planning Association article showing the growth in Ohio is flat, boat registration in Ohio continues to go up and, the Geneva Lodge articles show available numbers on their guests and what they are spending, where they are from and some outside funding they have.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 2008. Location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Welch moved to adjourn the February 27, 2008 Lake County Coastal Plan Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. and Mr. Gilmer seconded the motion.

All voted “Aye”.