



**COMMITTEE MEETING ~ NIRPC AUDITORIUM  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2012  
MINUTES**

**MEMBERS & GUESTS** – Matt Keiser, Michelle Bollinger, Jenny Orsburn, Eric Ehn, A J Bytnar, Jerry Rosko, Mark O’Dell, Tim Morgan, John Novacich, Brian Niksch, Walter Lenckos, Lynda Lancaster, Gregg Calpino, Craig Hendrix, Chris Moore, A J Monroe, Angela Larsen, John Siebert, Denarie Kane, Mark Heintz, Chuck Chuman, Tim Cole, Jan Dick

**STAFF** - Mitch Barloga, Bill Brown, Joe Exl, Meredith Stilwell

Co-Chair Morgan called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. with self-introductions.

**PED**

**SOUTH SHORE TRAILS - UPDATE.** In the absence of a South Shores Trails representative, Mitch reported on the public information meeting held at the Trek Bike store in Schererville on August 22. It was a nice meeting with a good mix of people present and included information about how trails are built and that it is not an overnight process.

**FEATURE PRESENTATION: Facilitating Implementation of Recreation and Restoration Projects in Coastal Calumet** – Angela Larsen, *Alliance for the Great Lakes Coastal Program Manager*

The mission of the Alliance for the Great Lakes is to conserve and restore the world’s largest fresh water resource using policy, education and local effort. They have over 12,000 supporters throughout the region and while headquartered in Chicago, have regional organization offices in all major urban centers around the Great Lakes Basin. Some areas of work for the Alliance are clean water, sustainable water use, ecosystem restoration, emerging issues, invasive species, civic and youth participation (e.g. adopt-a-beach). The Alliance assists with informing the dialogues, monitoring and advocating, engaging the public, and convening stakeholders and focus mainly on citizens, public, and public interest. Angela is specifically working on the facilitation and implementation of restoration and recreation projects in the Coastal Calumet. The overall desired impact is to improve the quality of coastal resources in bi-state Calumet to have positive environmental and economic impacts on the Great Lakes and the coastal communities. The goals for the work is to increase the number of coastal habitat restoration projects in the bi-state region and to help advocate and illustrate state level agency support and buy-in for protection of coastally unique, independent habitats.

Strategies to facilitate implementation:

1. Coordinate between regional, state and local orgs/agencies
2. Identify funding sources
3. Help develop and/or manage grants
4. Provide analytical framework

Restoration & recreation project types include:

1. Habitat & ecosystem restoration
2. Water trail access/launch points
3. Pedestrian & bike trails
4. Economic/community development (economic evaluation and prioritization of habitat restoration projects)

A map of the coastal calumet area developed from the National Park Service Calumet feasibility study was presented. Angela noted habitats and ecosystems shared by Illinois and Indiana have not been mapped as they are having difficulty in that area. Ways being considered to communicate the connection between Illinois and Indiana are through the Lake Michigan water trail, and prioritizing and phasing mutually beneficial projects around centers of activities as a single project that encompasses multiple projects. Next steps are to assemble a small group that have different types of projects and determine priority projects, how individual projects can be supported while supporting each other, and to determine if there is a role for Angela to help in various ways.

**PEDAL**

**FEATURE PRESENTATION: What I Learned at Pro Walk/Pro Bike – Mitch Barloga**

The biannual Pro Walk/Pro Bike national conference was Sept. 10-13 in Long Beach, CA which was chosen because of its non-motorized friendliness. Mitch referenced a statement made at the conference by Fred Kent, President of the Project

for Public Spaces, “You build around cars-you get more cars. You build around people-you get more people”. Some of the sessions included Towards Zero Death, Ped & Bicyclist Behavior, Art of Street Design, Innovative Public Engagement, Future of Government Funding Bike Friendly Businesses, Safe Routes to Schools in Large Districts Implementation-Focused Plans, and Catapulting Bike & Ped Advocacy. General highlights garnered from the sessions were expanding Safe Routes funding - to this point Mitch indicated he is going to push for a designated Safe Routes to School Coordinator at NIRPC; near misses need more attention; don’t put all you learn in one design; engage a lot of partners; look at all streets when planning; advocates need business plans; use small events to build advocate groups; and U.S. Mayors have expressed their desire to see bike share expand. One slide reviewed from the conference was an Annual Work Plan Composition (on-going infrastructure projects, on-going bike network projects, specific capital projects, grant-funded projects). Mitch discussed a few sessions he attended in greater depth:

- **Bike Friendly Business:** The concept of “induced demand” indicates if you build trails and facilities it encourages more use. Bike Friendly Business Districts (BFBDs) are areas where merchants are encouraged to bring in bikes which allows bicyclists to shop closer to their homes. Long Beach has the nation’s first and many merchants are engaged.
- **Emerging Trends:** There has been an explosion of local innovation around the country. Vehicle miles traveled has decreased since 2004 and health care providers are “getting it” and becoming partners in non-motorized networks to increase healthiness. Statistics provided included 1/3 of the country is on the way to becoming diabetic by 2030, 65% of the population do not live in what have been known as traditional households, 48% of 25-35 year olds are looking to dense urban areas for living, from 1998-2007 there was a 28% decrease in driver license issuances, and 21-34 year olds are not buying cars at the same level as in the past.
- **Safe Routes in Large Districts:** An example from the Cincinnati area was highlighted and dealt with non-infrastructure planning with a major emphasis on completing plans in ONE school year. In Cincinnati no less than 48, K-8 schools were worked with and within those 48 areas they identified priority corridors; established if they meshed with current plans; and proposed countermeasures to improve the networks for bike and ped travel for children. A very complex priority matrix was used to see the projects through and numerous partners were identified.
- **Mobile Workshop:** Attendees road through the streets of Long Beach and visited a Bike Station. Bike Station is a brand of bicycle stations located in many areas including Millennium Park in Chicago. The stations allow bicyclist to ride to business districts, safely park their bike, and have showers available. City streets were easily navigated mostly due to cycle tracks which are a protected lane that is not just buffered but has a physical barrier and separated from any type of connections to motorized traffic. The cycle tracks have signals that operate separately from the automobile traffic signals. Bike corrals were noted as a very important aspect and feature in downtown districts.

Several poster sessions were held and Mitch focused on a poster from San Francisco that detailed in statistics what happens when everyone meets the 15 minutes of activity per day/per person target.

## **UPDATE ON TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES & NEXT FUNDING CYCLE**

The Priority Corridor Map Committee is still to be formed and will be open to everybody. Some areas to review are where priority networks need to be expanded and if current networks are reasonable. The new transportation program will come into effect October 1, but FHWA is still writing the guidance and there might not be a funding cycle for several months. Meetings may start in October to build toward what to do with the new money and since there will be more projects to fund with less money, there is a lot of work ahead and the 3PC will need to be more creative.

## **PADDLE —**

### **NWI PADDLING ASSOCIATION — UPDATE**

Tim Morgan announced LaPorte County parks and NWIPA are coming to an agreement on an MOU and hopefully will move forward on phase 1 of a project which will establish a camping area on the Kankakee River. This would be the first public access site on the River in the northwest Indiana. Phase 2 of the project will be to build a chickee.

Lynda Lancaster announced the Urban Water’s East Calumet Watershed Plan awareness event being held on October 13 in Chesterton. There will be paddling, hiking and environmental education. She also noted there was a good turnout for the NWIPA Ride the Wave Regatta on the Lake Michigan Water Trail September 15. Two nationally ranked competitors came out for the race.

## **GRAB BAG**

### **A. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES, CONCERNS, GRIPES & A BIT OF FUN**

- A video about Asian carp was presented to the group.

### **B. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (UPCOMING RIDES, EVENTS, ETC.)**

- Valparaiso will be hosting the Valparaiso University sponsored Greentown Symposium on September 27 and 28 at VU. There will be an event held at Central Park during the evening of the 27<sup>th</sup>. Mitch will be speaking on bike planning and complete streets.
- Jan Dick announced he is involved with a group that is attempting to get bikes on the Southshore. Input was requested and letters of support would be beneficial.
- September 29 - NWIPA 3<sup>rd</sup> annual tour of the LaPorte lakes.
- October 10 - Official unveiling of the LaPorte bike trail.
- October 4 - Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision (GIV 2.1) update meeting at NIRPC.
- October 3 – Indiana Dunes Climate Change Workshop at NIRPC
- Schererville has paved the section of the Erie Lackawanna Trail from Burr Street to Route 30.
- The Brickyard Trail is now paved through the National Lakeshore.

### **C. THE NEXT 3PC MEETING IS OCTOBER 25, 2012.**

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00