

CAWS STEERING COMMITTEE  
CONFERENCE CALL  
MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS  
MARCH 17, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.

Call Participants: Matt Doss, Lisa Frede, Josh Ellis, Molly Flanagan, Robert Hirschfeld, Kara Kramer, Kay Nelson, Bob Wakeman, Kathy Luther, Joe Exl, Dominique Edwards, and Candice Eklund.

Discussion Items:

- Due to the Novel Coronavirus, Kathy Luther asked the Steering Committee if the next CAWS meeting should be a webinar rather than an in-person meeting. Matt Doss and other Steering Committee members agreed a webinar would be preferred. While a webinar would not allow for open discussion, they agreed it would do well for presentations and to deliver key talking points.
- Matt Doss and Molly Flanagan attended Great Lakes Day in Washington this month. Matt offered to provide a general state overview of the event during the webinar and Molly agreed to present from the perspective of the 'Healing Our Waters' organization, regarding environmental conservation.
- Kara Kramer, with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) noted their executive director also attended Great Lakes Day. To schedule an interview to gather information from the visit, email Kara at [Kara.kramer@glslcities.org](mailto:Kara.kramer@glslcities.org).
- Kathy Luther will contact John Rogner, Loren Wobig and the USACE to provide an update on the Brandon Road project.
- Joe Exl constructed a letter from the three talking points he received on the 2-way initiative. Kathy Luther will forward the letter to the Steering Committee. Kay Nelson added if a letter is going to be sent to Congress, it would require considerable alterations to what the CAWS group has supported. Molly Flanagan stated it would be difficult to gain consensus from the Steering Committee on a letter for the 2-way and she would oppose any statements to abandon the Brandon Road Project.
- After discussions were had on whether to support a letter for the 2-way initiative, the Steering Committee decided that rather than pursuing one letter, individual organizations would proceed as they desired. Josh added it is not NIRPC's role to facilitate discussions, circulate letters, or aid in discussions when the Steering Committee doesn't have a clear consensus. Individual written letters could be shared with the Committee to serve as templates for other organizations to use. Joe Exl will create an email translating this information to the Advisory Committee.

- Another agenda item would be to discuss refreshing the Steering Committee with new members, members wanting to step down, and new members requesting to join. With Bob Wakeman retiring in the near future, there will be at least one vacancy.
- Josh Ellis stated it is the responsibility of the existing Steering Committee to take interest in those wanting to be on the Committee next term. The recommendations will be presented to the Advisory Committee during the webinar. It was also noted that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) organization and Andrea Densham with the Shedd Aquarium, have both expressed interest in serving on the Committee.
- The webinar for the next meeting will be held on March 31, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. central time zone. The webinar will be held on the GoToMeeting platform.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.