



Friends of Cedar Lake

Meeting minutes 9/26/13

Developing a Blueprint for the Future

Attendees

Anthony Brown, Dale Todd, Daniel Gibbins, Don Steichen, Doug Neumann, Elwood Garlock, Felicia Wyrick, Gary Thompson, John Casali, Kurt Nilsson, Martin Smith, Marty Hoeger, Mary Meisterling, Paul Sleeper, Randy Schulz, Rich Patterson, Ron Valenta, Stacie Johnson, Steve Hershner, Steve Krug, Sven Leff, Will McIntee

New Business

- **Meeting was opened by Dale Todd, and the group then offered reasons why they felt that now was a good time to devote energy to cleaning up the Cedar Lake area. Reasons highlighted included:**
 1. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers flood mitigation proposal for the lake has the potential to help with Lake Hydrology issues and improve the opportunities for recreational uses. The group needs to review the current plan and provide input on it, sooner rather than later.
 2. The closure of the Alliant Energy 6th Street Coal Plant has provided an opportunity to partner with Alliant on remediation efforts. Work removing the coal ash waste and steam lines has already begun.
 3. The State DNR has a successful program in place that assists in Lake Restoration efforts. DNR Representatives have been contacted and are excited about the possibility of the lake/city becoming a part of the program.



- 4. The recent "Cedar Rapids Metro Alliance Vision Cedar Rapids JLG Downtown Framework Plan" lists the desire to "Improve Cedar Lake and integrate it as an amenity into the Cedar River Park," as one of its priorities for the future.
 - 5. There is a strong chance that the "fish consumption advisory," will soon be removed for the lake by the DNR. Testing is indicating a decrease in the level of chlordane and PCB's in fish tissue samples (test results included in notes).
 - 6. Many of the City of Cedar Rapids large scale capital improvement projects have been successfully completed by the (Convention Center, Public Library, Amphitheatre, Fire Station, New Bo Market and Prairie Park Fishery). Now would be a good time to begin a new project.
 - 7. New techniques in stormwater management, wastewater control and contamination remediation have been developed and can be incorporated into this project to assist with improving the water quality of the lake.
 - 8. In 1979 a Cedar Lake Master Plan was completed and with the City securing additional properties in the vicinity of the lake as a result of the flood of 2008, now is a good time to revisit the Master Plan and build on its framework.
 - 9. Interest on the part of federal partners in revitalization efforts.
- **Paul Sleeper, Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist at Lake McBride provided background information on the Departments Lake Restoration program. The first challenge is to get the lake listed on the DNR's list of "priority lakes." Only public bodies of water can participate in the program. Steps include:**
 - 1. Developing a local steering committee/technical advisory team
 - 2. Holding public meetings
 - 3. Create vision statements/goals
 - 4. Inventory, gather data and analyze problems
 - 5. Work to secure funding and lobby legislatively for support
 - 6. Create a watershed management plan

Also in attendance was Randy Schultz, DNR Fisheries Biologist from Chariton. Paul Sleeper mentioned that this was the largest turnout he has witnessed for a lake kick off meeting and that the DNR is excited to work with the group in developing a plan. Helping to assist in lobbying for additional funding to the DNR's Lake Restoration Program is critical simply because the need is so widespread.

Information on the program can be found at:
http://www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/water/watershed/files/lake_frame.pdf

- **Mary Meisterling, Key Account Manager for Alliant Energy provided an update on Alliant's Remediation efforts. They have formed an internal committee to develop a plan to remediate the coal fly ash area and decommission the Sixth Street Coal Plant. Crews are already in the process of removing the overhead steam lines in the lake area. It will be important for "Friends of Cedar Lake," to work in**



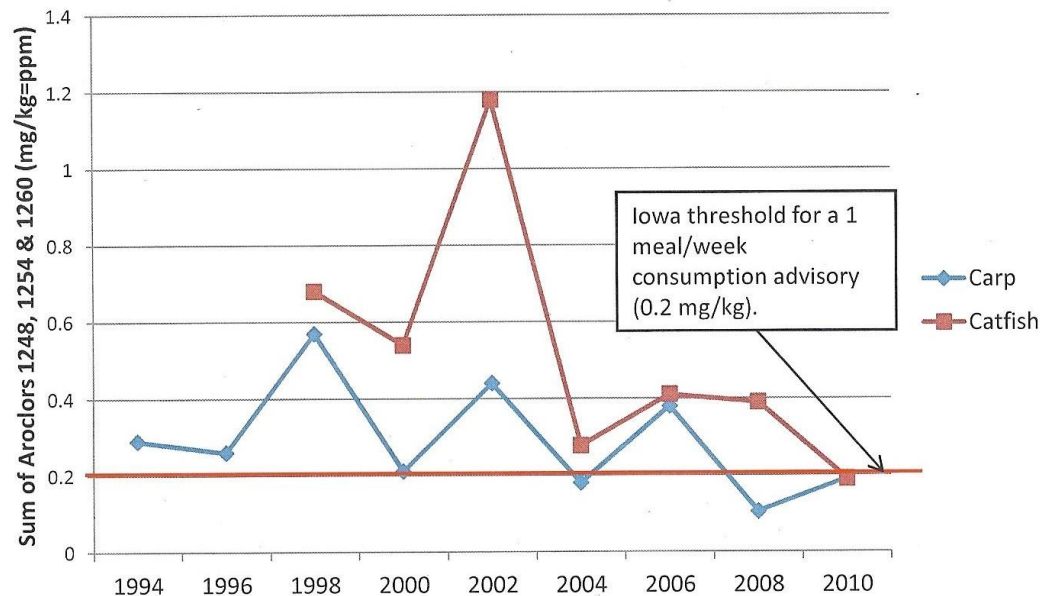
partnership with Alliant Energy prior to the submittal of any final decommissioning plans to the State of Iowa.

- **Steve Hershner, Utilities Environmental Manager, City of Cedar Rapids** spoke about the current condition of the lake's water quality and indicated that he would be willing to assist in developing new technical data of the lakes water quality. Steve has been involved in past efforts including McLeod Run Trout Project and is familiar with many of the past water quality studies. He said that much of the data we have is old. He mentioned that "the city does water sampling all of the time, and will begin to pull together some baseline data to guide us." Potential partners in this endeavor could include:

1. Students from Coe and Mt. Mercy Biology Department
2. Iowa State Extension
3. Department of Natural Resources

Steve also passed out copies from the Iowa DNR/U.S. EPA Region 7 Ambient Fish Tissue Testing that showed levels of PCB and chlordane from 1994-2010

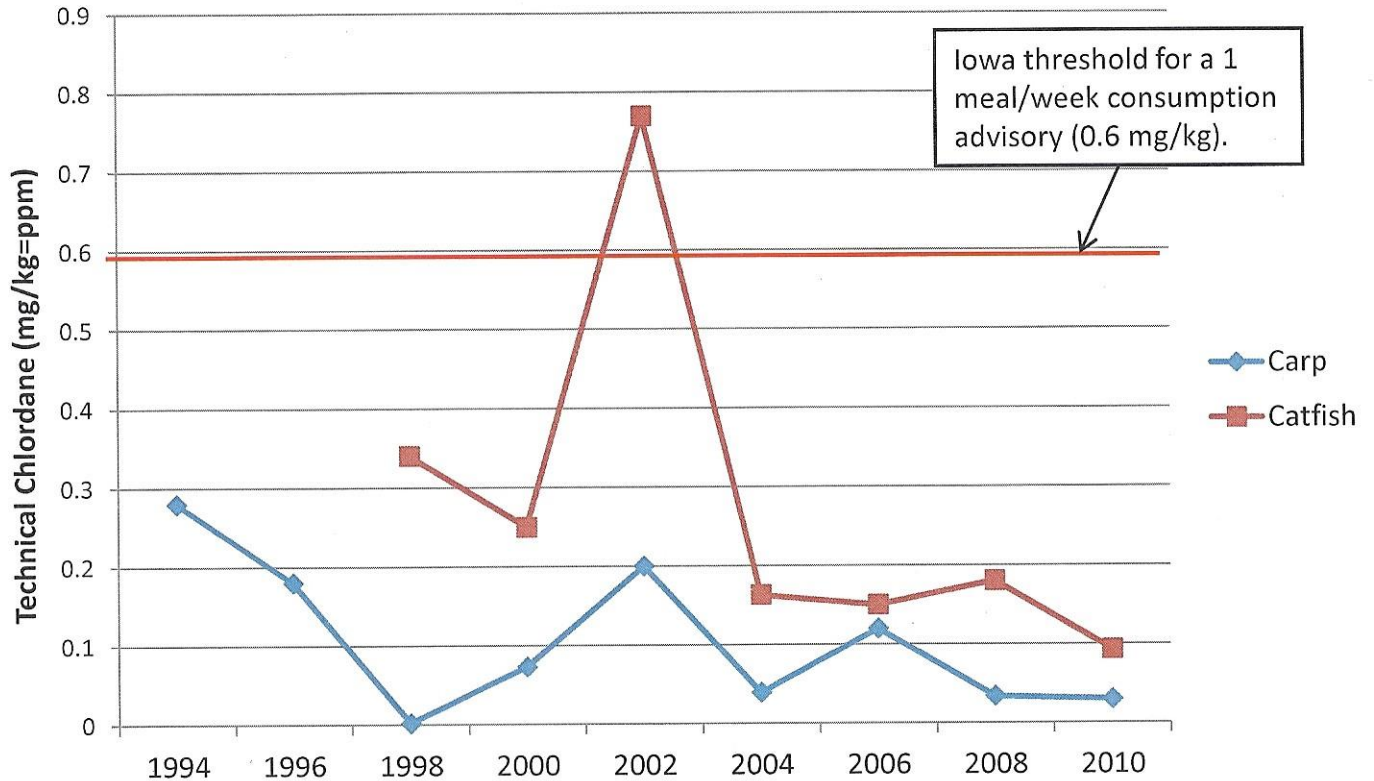
Levels of total PCBs in channel catfish & common carp fillet samples from Cedar Lake, Cedar Rapids, IA.



Data are from the Iowa DNR/U.S. EPA Region 7 Regional Ambient Fish Tissue (RAFT) fish contaminant monitoring network. Prepared by John Olson, IDNR Watershed Monitoring & Assessment Section, February 5, 2013.



Levels of chlordane in channel catfish and common carp fillet samples from Cedar Lake, Cedar Rapids, IA

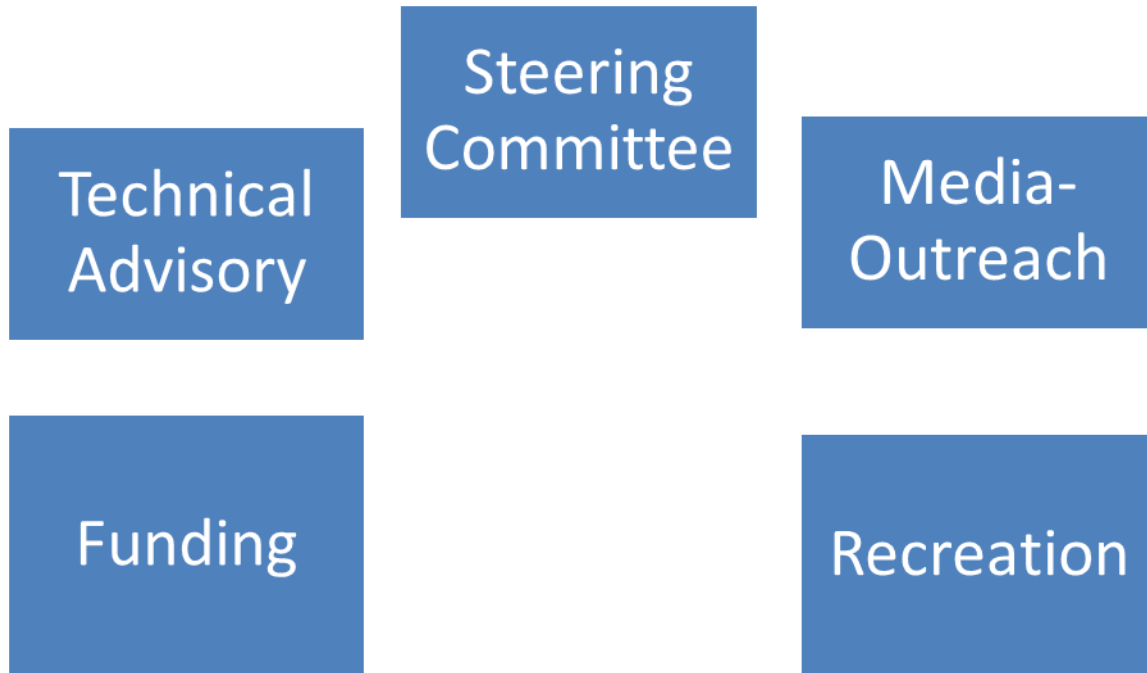


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A strong need exists to capture new data on the sediment, limnology and hydrology of the lake, funding will be needed to hire engineering/hydrology firm for this part of the project.

- Friends of Cedar Lake will develop a steering committee that will be responsible for strategic planning with established aims, and keeps established frames such as range, costs and deadlines. Volunteers will be recruited for four other subcommittees that will assist with meeting the goals outlined in the Department of Natural Resources Framework for Lake Restoration.





Chairs for the subcommittees will include:

Felecia Wyrick – Recreation
 Steve Hershner – Technical Advisory
 Dale Todd – Steering
 Funding – TBD
 Media/Outreach - TBD

Misc. Action Items

1. Need to compile recent TMDL information
2. Website page has been secured, need someone to develop it
3. Linn County Representatives have expressed interest in being a part of coalition, group needs to contact Cedar Rapids elected officials.

Next Meeting

- Thursday October 17th, 5:00 PM
 Cedar Rapids Water Department Administration Bldg. 1111 Shaver Road NE., Lower Level
 Conference Room

Next Meeting Agenda Items



1. Stacie Johnson – Cedar Lake Watershed map
2. Updates from subcommittees
3. Additional agenda material will be sent out prior the next meeting

Adjournment 6:15 PM

Minutes submitted by Dale Todd 10/10/13

