

Public Meeting Announcement



Lower Menominee River Area of Concern Citizens Advisory Committee Open House

The Lower Menominee River Area of Concern (AOC) Citizens Advisory Committee will hold an Open House on **Thursday, June 26, 2014, 6:30 – 8:30 pm at UW-Marquette, main building cafeteria, 750 W Bayshore Street, Marinette.** Parking available in Lot B (Map: <http://www.marquette.uwc.edu/about/campus-maps/>)

A brief introductory presentation on the AOC and an overview of ongoing improvement projects on the Menominee River (Tyco Legacy Dredging, Menekaunee Harbor Dredging & Restoration, Fish Passage Project, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation post dredge activities, Fish & Wildlife Habitat Improvements and many more) will be presented at 6:30 pm. The remainder of the time will be an open floor with project-specific booths setup for a question and answer period.

Across the region, 43 AOCs were designated in 1987 – five of them in Wisconsin and 14 in Michigan-- as part of an international agreement between the U.S. and Canada known as the "Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement." Most AOC's were listed due to use impairments caused by severely contaminated sediments. Wisconsin and Michigan share responsibility for the Lower Menominee River AOC. More information is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/greatlakes/aoc.html> or at <http://michigan.gov/aocprogram>

In recent years, there has been significant progress on the Lower Menominee River AOC through partnerships with the Wisconsin and Michigan natural resource and environmental quality agencies, multiple federal agencies, local governments, business and industry, local citizens or citizen groups on both sides of the river.

Tyco (formerly Ansul)-Two years of dredging arsenic contaminated sediments has been very successful with approximately 260,000 cubic yards dredged. Tyco has removed contaminated sediments to 50 ppm December 2013. Great Lakes Legacy Act Betterment Project Planning is underway between Tyco, EPA and WDNR. The Betterment Project is proposed to take the current 50 ppm arsenic concentrations to 20 ppm in order to meet the AOC goals on an accelerated schedule. Tyco will work with agencies to improve aquatic habitat in dredged areas.

Menekaunee Harbor-The Wisconsin Department Natural Resources and the City of Marinette are currently developing plans to remove contaminated sediment, improve navigation and recreational opportunities, as well as, restore wildlife and fish habitat in the harbor. EPA also agreed to become a partner and will fund the remaining funds necessary to complete the project. Dredging and habitat design plans are in nearing completion.

Fish Passage- Work is beginning on the upstream fish passage at the Menominee Dam (Lower Scott) and downstream fish passage at both the Park Mill (Upper Scott) dams.

Invitation—Citizens and businesses are all encouraged to attend to learn more about the exciting developments to the Lower Menominee River AOC. For more information contact: Mark Erickson, Michigan CAC Co-Chair, MErickson@lloydflanders.com, 906-863-1954 or Keith West, Wisconsin CAC Co-Chair, Keith.West@uwc.edu, 715-735-4300 x4352