

Wisconsin Coastal Beaches Working Group

Spring 2019 Meeting Agenda

Meeting Objectives: Convene local, state, tribal, federal, university and non-profit partners involved in beach research, management, education and communication for a day of information sharing, collaboration and networking. Attendees will hear reports from Wisconsin's beach partners on issues from beach restoration to water quality.

Date: May 16, 2019

Time: 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Location: Racine Yacht Club (1 Barker Street, Racine, WI 53402)

9:30 – 10:00 **Registration and Networking**

10:00 – 10:20 **Welcome and Introductions**

10:20 – 10:35 **Department of Natural Resources Report: Wisconsin Beaches**

Madeline Magee, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

10:35 – 10:55 **Lightning Round Presentations**

Carmen Thiel, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, *Economic Value of Beach Reengineering on Lake Michigan Beaches*

Amanda Koch, Wisconsin Division of Public Health, *Addressing Harmful Algal Blooms & Related Illnesses in Wisconsin*

10:55 – 11:10 **BREAK**

11:10 – 11:30 **Lightning Round Presentations**

Vicki Elkin, Fund for Lake Michigan, *The Fund for Lake Michigan: a promising source of funding for beach restoration and water quality projects*

Todd Breiby, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, *NOAA Coastal Resiliency Project: Beach Resiliency*

11:30 – 11:45 **Round Table Discussion**

11:45 – 12:00 **North Beach & Sam Myers Park Projects**

Julie Kinzelman, City of Racine Health Department

12:00 – 1:00 **Networking Lunch**

1:00 – 2:00 **North Beach Tour** (description of tours on back)

2:00 – 3:00 **Sam Myers Park Tour**

Thank you to our sponsors for this event:



Tour descriptions:

Research conducted to identify pollution sources guided the development of altered beach management practices in Racine, including ecologically appropriate beach modifications (in many instances relying on restoration of native vegetation and coastal habitat) and the redesign of a major stormwater outfall. In an effort to enhance public access while maintaining habitat and water quality, a trail system was put in place to define access points, provide public education and reduce harmful foot traffic through sensitive coastal wetland and dune habitats. Spanning three watersheds (Pike River, Root River & Wind Point), North and Zoo Beaches, along with Samuel Myers Park, represent over 80 acres of urban Lake Michigan shoreline with exceptional restoration potential. Working to increase native plant communities (including ~650 trees), manage invasive species, and implement green infrastructure, the City of Racine has increased stormwater infiltration, diversified habitat and enhanced coastal resiliency in these unique coastal wetland/beach environments.