

City of Portage  
Ad Hoc Canal Committee Meeting  
Monday, August 5, 2013, 6:30 p.m.  
Municipal Building, Conference Room One  
Minutes

Members present: Fred Galley, Chairperson; Chris Arnold, Ron Dorn, Marianne Hanson, Doug Klapper, Gil Miesgeier, Bob Redelings, Addie Tamboli, Jesse Spankowski (citizen member), Mayor William Tierney ex-officio, Destine Udelhoven

Members excused: Tim Raimer

Others present: Shawn Murphy, Kim Johnson, Scott Inman, Jerry Foellmi, Roger Krejchik, Craig Sauer and Bill Welsh

1. Roll Call
2. Joel Engelland has decided not to join our committee.

Chairperson Galley gave an update on the membership. Mr. Engelland has declined membership and Tim Raimer will participate as his health permits.

3. Recap DOT Agreement with city (Klapper)

Klapper said that the Council approved the Agreement on a 6 to 3 vote with the most senior council members voting against it. Mayor Tierney indicated that of the 3 members voting against the Agreement, two of them had questions/concerns about the ultimate cost to the City.

4. Recap Columbia County Fair booth (Galley/Klapper)

The booth was manned by Klapper, Galley and Udelhoven. Though traffic wasn't high, there was a good exchange of information. Udelhoven indicated some adjoining property owners were concerned about their property rights and impact on property values. Galley responded that studies have shown that properties fronting on trails have increased in value be 20% to 30%.

Klapper suggested the Committee also have a booth at next year's fair and to hold other community events and to solicit other group participation from to build consensus.

5. DNR presentation ( Scott Inman, DNR Water Quality Specialist)

Scott provided a presentation (slides attached) on the DNR's current sampling program. The DNR is examining the entire length of the canal and initial estimates indicate that an average 2.25' removal depth would

yield 60,000 cubic yards of material. If that depth is increased by a foot, an additional 27,000 cubic yards of material would need to be removed. Regardless, at approximately \$150/cubic yard, the project cost will range in the \$millions.

Though a phased approach may be considered, one of the reasons the entire canal is being considered for remediation is because the highest concentrations of lead and mercury were found north of Hwy 33. Previous concerns regarding contamination of fish have been forwarded to the Department of Health.

Miesgeier inquired if the dredged sediment could be placed behind the revetment walls. Inman indicated that's a possibility, but also mentioned that it may not be suitable as structural fill for building a trail.

Krejchik inquired as to how water depth would be maintained. Mr. Inman said it would be important to maintain the stormwater structures.

Galley suggested the final design should include ultimate removal of the stop logs at Adams Street.

Klapper inquired as to whether the project might be cheaper if the overlying sediments weren't as contaminated as the bottom sediments. Mr. Inman suggested additional sampling would be required to make a determination. Even if the sediments had different concentrations, it would be very difficult to separate the materials during the removal operation.

Miesgeier inquired if hydraulic dredging was an option and Mr. Inman indicated it was.

#### 6. Request for Proposal of Segment 2 ( Kim Johnson, Johnson Engineering)

Kim provided an explanation of the consultant selection process (handouts attached). She indicated the engineering cost is estimated at \$400,000 with an 80/20 split, the City's portion being 20%.

RFQ's would be solicited from DOT's roster of eligible consultants, but only a limited number of consultants would express interest. Thought the City isn't required to interview for the project, it's highly advised. When interviews are conducted, at least 5 firms must be considered.

Ms. Johnson also suggested that a consultant selection team would need to be identified along with a procedure for handling communications during the selection process.

Administrator Murphy suggested that staff work with Ms. Johnson to develop a scope of services for the work and bring it back to the committee for review next month.

7. Discussion and possible action on opening the canal waterway and ped/bike path under Hwy 51 & 16. (Klapper)

Klapper indicated that an ultimate goal of the canal project would to have an opening large enough at Hwy 16/51 to allow light watercraft to pass comfortably. Redelings suggested this item be included in the scoping of the Hwy 51 reconstruction project. Ms. Johnson inquired as to who the DOT project manager was. Redelings will obtain and convey this information.

Klapper suggested the WSHS may need to provide input. Galley indicated earlier versions included swing and lift bridges. Krejchik indicated it was important that safety be considered.

8. Discussion and possible action on storm water inlets into the canal (Klapper)

Klapper expressed his concern for ensuring the stormwater outfalls had adequate provisions to keep sediment out of the canal. Redelings provided a map (attached) showing the structures and drainage areas. Tamboli suggested that Vortex units could be provided to assist with sediment removal.

9. Meeting Schedule (Everyone) Monday, Sept. 9 or Monday, Oct. 7

It was the consensus that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2013.

Arnold inquired as to whether consultants could be requested to provide a design cost – construction cost percentage. Ms. Johnson said that would not be permitted and suggested that the project budget be an item at all ad Hoc committee meetings.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Redelings, second by Tamboli to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously on call of the roll.

The meeting concluded at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Redelings, P.E.  
City Engineer



PORTAGE CANAL  
MEETING, 08.05.13



# Table of Contents

- Jan – June 2013 Before the last meeting
- June The last meeting
- June – August Since Last Meeting
- August – Dec The rest of 2013

# Before the Last Meeting (Jan – June)

- 2013 Ice Sampling (why)
  - Determine if contamination still exists or if any changes
  - Define lateral extent in canal
  - Test the sand is surrogate for clean theory
  - Access across ice is easier
  - Determine Volume
- Conclusions
  - Contamination still exists (conc. similar to previous investigations)
  - Machinery is needed to core deeper
  - Volume estimates will likely increase

# Action Items from last meeting June – August

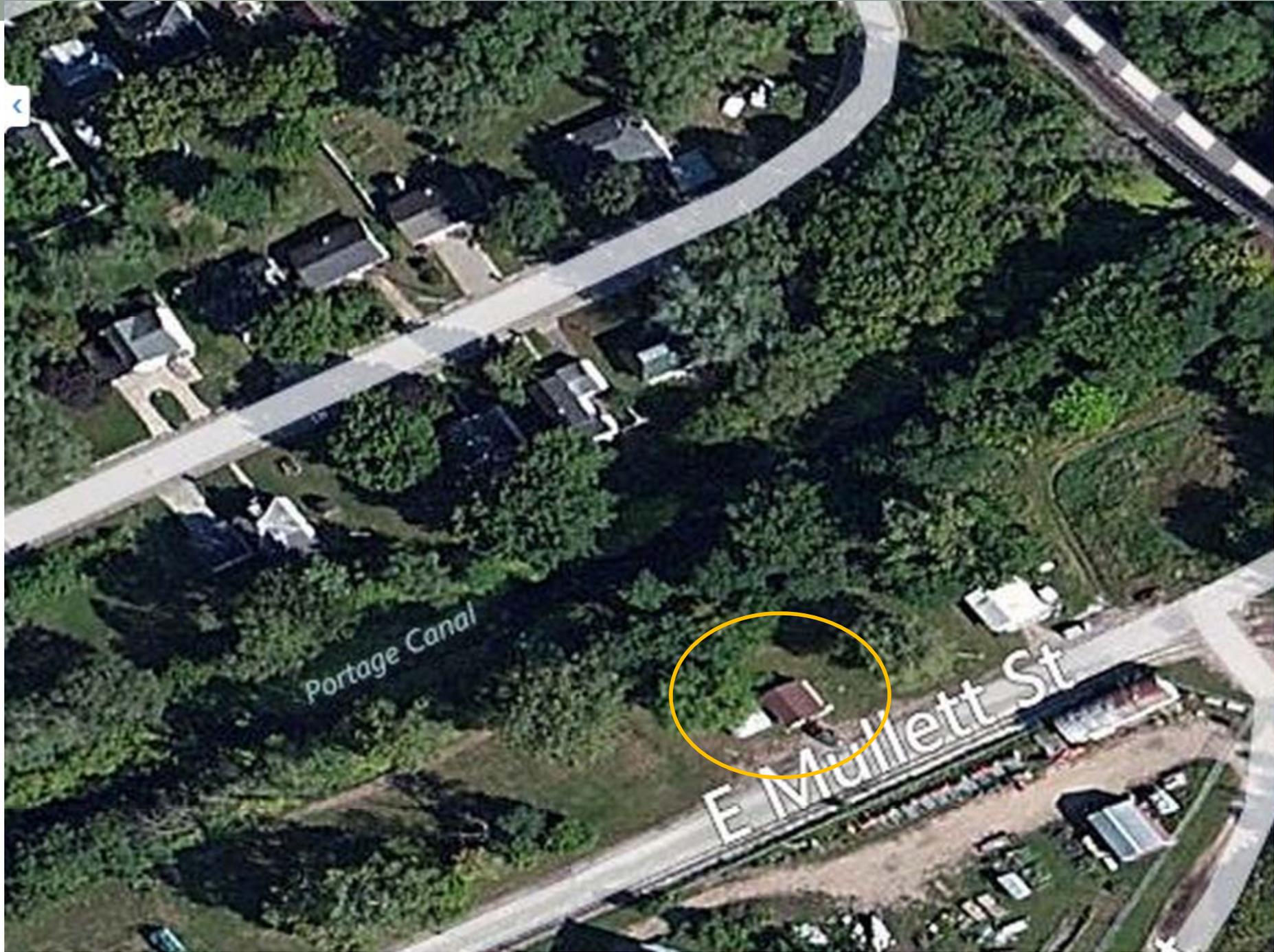
- Information Sheet for the County Fair
- Involve DOH for HHRA
- Check on DNR Marsh Master
- Setup a sampling plan
- Acquire quotes for services

# August Meeting

- Information Sheet for the County Fair => completed
- Involve DOH for HHRA
  - Site Visit with DOH
  - DOH has submitted draft HHRA
- DNR Marsh Master => not going to work
- Sampling plan includes
  - USGS poling
  - Marsh Master Geoprobe – DNR Processing
  - State Lab of Hygiene Analytical
  - Fish samples
- Get quotes and rates for services
  - NRT - Milwaukee
  - Mateco – Michigan
  - Protech - Batton Rouse

# Rest of Year August - Dec

- Provide Comments to DOH HHRA
- Access to Canal near DNR facility (shed)?
  - Work Ramp
  - Permits
- Finalize contracts
- Implement the sampling plan in fall (potentially October)



Portage Canal

E Mullett St



# Questions

# Marsh Master at Lincoln Park

