

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

R08-09
(Rulemaking-Water)

ORIGINAL

IN THE MATTER OF:

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND)
EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS FOR THE)
CHICAGO AREA WATERWAY SYSTEM)
AND THE LOWER DES PLAINES RIVER:)
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 35 Ill.)
Adm. Code Parts 301, 302, 303, 304)

PC#184

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF ALAN MAMMOSER

INTRODUCTION

My name is Alan Mammoser. I was employed at the Southeast Environmental Task Force ("SETF") for 2-1/2 years, most recently as the Executive Director of the SETF. Prior to attaining this title in 2006, I joined the SETF in October, 2005 as a project manager for the Calumet Area Vision project. As Executive Director, I led the organization's work in three programs: pollution prevention, open space planning, and environmental education.

Prior to working at the SETF, I worked for six years as an associate planner at the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. During my time at the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission I participated in various regional planning projects including the Common Ground Regional Framework Plan, and the East Will County Council of Mayors. In the Common Regional Ground Regional Framework Plan, I implemented a participatory regional planning process to identify goals, strategies and regional spatial framework of centers and corridors. For the East Will County Council of Mayors, I advised five municipalities adjacent to a proposed suburban airport to help them create a special area-wide authority for intergovernmental land use planning. Further, I performed regional research which resulted in

the reports *Employment Subcenter Identification Project, Final Summary Report* (August, 2002) and *The Transit – Land Use Link: A Density Study in Suburbia* (June, 2002).

In 1999, I was awarded the Nicolas V. Trkla Scholarship by the Urban Land institute for outstanding academic accomplishment in the field of urban planning. I also received an American Fellowship in 2004 which is a presidential initiative for the Americas by the U.S. State Department. As part of the fellowship, I worked three months in the regional planning agency Emplasa in São Paulo, Brazil. Finally, I was awarded a journalism fellowship in 2005 by the German Marshall Fund of the United States for research and writing about trans-Atlantic environmental issues, specifically pertaining to local food systems.

I have Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of California at Los Angeles. I have a Masters Degree in Urban Planning and Policy and a Masters in History from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

SOUTHEAST ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE

The SETF represents the Illinois Calumet Region, which includes the southeast side of Chicago and adjacent south suburbs. We were founded in 1989 as an arm of Illinois State Representative Clem Balanoff's Office and were incorporated in 1994. We operate as mostly a volunteer organization. Our Board of Director's is completely voluntary and is comprised of public officials, engineers, professors, teachers, clergy and bankers. Our accomplishments include: stopping various landfill expansions and waste facility proposals; promoting restoration of degraded wetlands; promoting sustainable Brownfield redevelopment; and driving pollution reduction investments in industries adjacent to communities and waterways.

We serve students, educators, adults and families through our Environmental Education program. The goal of the Environmental Education program is to create environmentally aware

communities in southeast Chicago; communities that contribute to the area's redevelopment and respond to environmental threats. To create such communities, we work to foster a love for the environment among residents. We educate them on issues that affect quality of life in their neighborhoods and in the remarkable natural areas of the Calumet region. Programs that we set up include: environmental education workshops on an issue in the Calumet Region; presentations of the history and environmental issues in the Calumet region, presentations on how a particular community or school can get involved, Toxics Treasures Tours for students and adult groups; and evening environmental education workshops for adults.

Our mission is to empower residents and students in the southeast side and the south suburbs of Chicago to improve their local environment; promote pollution prevention and progressive practices in the Calumet region facilities; and promote preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the region's natural areas, and sustainable development of the region's industrial lands. Our vision is that one day educated and empowered residents are able to contribute to sustainable growth and respond to all environmental threats; all businesses are utilizing the most energy efficient processes, generating the least possible pollution and waste, and hiring local residents; and all open spaces and vacant lands are restored to create a community vitality, industry, - making the Calumet region of Greater Chicago a model for the nation and the world to emulate.

In 2005, we were one of 13 citizens, cities, or groups to receive Lt. Governor Pat Quinn's Environmental Hero Award. The award was given to SETF primarily based on our work to win the 20 year landfill moratorium for Chicago—effectively preventing two multimillion ton landfill expansions in the southeast and far south sides.

CALUMET AREA

The Calumet River connects the southeast side to the south and west suburbs of Chicago via the Little Calumet and the Calumet-Sag Channel, and to downtown Chicago via Lake Michigan. The Calumet River System includes the Calumet River, Little Calumet River, the Grand Calumet River, and the Calumet-Sag Channel. Historically, the Calumet River System is known for industrial and shipping use. The region has experienced some of the heaviest concentrations of industry in the Midwest. As a result, the area has lost thousands of acres of lakes and wetlands that were filled in with construction waste, steel mill slag, municipal garbage, and hazardous waste.

Currently, the Calumet Region in the City of Chicago contains approximately 4,800 acres of open lands, including 700 acres of Lake Calumet itself; approximately 20 miles of waterways including the Calumet, Little, and Grand Calumet Rivers; Wolf Lake; and, various smaller lakes and ponds. The region also holds about 2,000 acres of abandoned industrial lands which is 60% of Chicago's vacant industrial property.

CALUMET AREA VISION PLAN

The Calumet Area Land Use Plan was created by the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development and Department of Environment, three non-government organizations - the Southeast Chicago Development Commission, Openlands Project, and the Calumet Area Industrial Commission - and focus group participants including our founder, Marian Byrnes. The plan was created as an effort to increase the environmental and economic vitality of the Calumet Area. The plan was created by collecting all the existing maps and information about the area. The plan focuses on the creation of public access through small open spaces to the rivers.

In response to the City's Calumet Area Land Use Plan, we gathered partners to form the Lake Calumet Vision Committee in March, 2003 to create a Lake Calumet Vision Document detailing the desired uses for the waters and shores of the lake. Member organizations to date include: Openlands Project, Sierra Club-Illinois Chapter, Bird Conservation Network, Historic Pullman Foundation, Vet's Park Improvement Assn., Lake Michigan Federation, Friends of the Parks, Pullman Civic Organization, Peace Pipe Prairie Project and Calumet Ecological Park Assn. Further, in November 2003 a process to identify possible public open spaces in the corridor began. Sites were selected based on the following factors: no hindrances to industrial traffic, proximity to neighborhoods, consideration for public safety, historical significance, current uses by the community, security of neighboring properties.

On May 23, 2007 our Board members adopted the Calumet Area Vision Plan. Prior to the creation of the Calumet Area Vision Plan, I created a map of the area that encompasses the Calumet River, Cal-Sag River and the Little Calumet River. This map was used to create the Calumet Area Vision Plan. The plan is shown through a map that highlights 18 specific points called "Places and Connections" which unifies the area through a regional system of greenways and bike trails. The Map includes a variety of open spaces including the Big Marsh, covering hundreds of acres to half-acre market gardens on south Chicago lots. The Calumet Area Vision Plan envisions the Calumet River System as the centerpiece of a whole system of open spaces, greenways, bike paths, and a slew of recreational opportunities, mainly boating and fishing. We want to give people access to open spaces while supporting the birds, animals, fish, and native plant species that thrive in the Calumet region. Our ultimate goal is to create neighborhoods and industrial areas that coexist with natural areas.

Currently, we are focused on the Burnham Greenway – the “gap”, the Western Shore of Lake Calumet, and the Calumet-Sag Trail. First, the Burnham Greenway stretches from the heart of south suburban communities to Southeast Side neighborhoods linking people to Chicago’s Lakefront Trail. Currently, a 5-mile gap interrupts its course through Hegewisch and Burnham. We are working to close the gap which requires two bridges and new paths along right-of-ways.

Second, the Western Shore of Lake Calumet is a natural lake that was once considered a natural paradise by indigenous peoples, pioneers and early residents of Chicago. Today though the lake provides harbor facilities for the Illinois International Port District much of it remains open, unused and surrounded by a razor wire fence. We along with various partners in the Lake Calumet Vision Committee are working to have the area become part of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

Finally, the Calumet-Sag Trail will unite the Calumet area with the Illinois & Michigan National Heritage Corridor. The trail will follow the Grand Calumet and Little Calumet Rivers through the communities of Burnham, Calumet City, Riverdale and Dolton, and then continue along the Cal-Sag Channel to the National Heritage Corridor. The multiuse trail will spur community and economic development through recreation and tourism.

Increasing green space is known to improve people's perceptions of their neighborhoods, reduce crime, and prompt further voluntary community greening efforts. Since tourism is a \$22 billion industry in Illinois, a strong case can be made for preserving the areas surrounding the Calumet River System. The area has the potential to become attractive to tourists, boaters, and fishermen. Further, investing in open spaces and historic structures along the river could also

boost industrial redevelopment. Business are more likely to locate a new facility in a community that is economically, socially, and culturally vital.

The Southeast Environmental Task Force (SETF) will implement its Calumet Area Vision project during 2008-09. The project builds upon our twenty years of work in the Lake Calumet region by strengthening each of our three current programs: pollution prevention, open space planning and environmental education.

DISINFECTION OF THE CALUMET AREA RIVERS

I believe that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's proposed regulation, specifically the heightened standard for disinfecting the waters in the Calumet River System, is a key component to the success of the Calumet Area Vision Plan and the environmental and economic vitality of the Calumet River System. Without disinfection of the Calumet River System, the collective impact of the other efforts to improve the area will greatly decrease.