

9th annual Wolf Lake Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, November 7, 2025

*Calumet College of St. Joseph (CCSJ), Room 200
2400 New York Avenue, Whiting, IN and via Zoom*

*Co-Sponsored by Calumet College of St. Joseph (CCSJ), funded in part by city of
Hammond, and organized by the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative*

Planning Committee: Dr. Phil Willink, Illinois Natural History Survey;
Dr. Valerie Pennanen, Professor Emerita, CCSJ; Marianne Kozlowski, Eggers Grove, FPDCC;
Nicky Strahl, Illinois DNR; Olivia Schweikart, William W. Powers State Recreation Area; Lisa
Downs, Boy Scouts; Mary Kuzniar, AWLI; Michael Boos, AWLI

Wolf Lake Ecosystem

You may register on AWLI's website at: www.wolflakeinitiative.org

Display table available

As noted in the Wolf Lake Vision document of 2000-2001, the Advisory Committee serves “as a forum to bring together public and private agencies and interests, to provide community input and to foster communication between the primary Wolf Lake managers and other state/regional planners.”

Morning Schedule

8:30 a.m. Sign-in, Room 200, Calumet College of St. Joseph (CCSJ)

9:00 a.m.

Welcome by Brian Lowry, director of Grants and External Affairs , CCSJ

9:05 a.m.

Introduction by Dr. Phil Willink, president, AWLI, and researcher at the Illinois Natural History Survey, including welcome to Adam Bianchi, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and Michael Lovera, William W. Powers State Recreation Area, Chicago

9:10 a.m.

Advisory Panel 1: Fish and Fowl in the Calumet

Seth Love, fish biologist, IDNR, gives report on Wolf Lake fish in 2025.

Abigail Rick, graduate research assistant, and **Anthony Porreca**, aquatic ecologist, both of the Illinois Natural History Survey, report on how the Powderhorn-Wolf Lake connection is affecting fish.

Dr. Phil Willink, **Frank Veraldi** and **Stephen M. Pescitelli**, co-authors, discuss their new field guide on Chicago area fish.

Adera Craig explains, using museum specimens, how historic and modern fish in Calumet waters have responded to pollution.

Daniel Suarez of Audubon Great Lakes describes birds attracted to Powderhorn since the Wolf Lake-Powderhorn Lakes reconnect two years ago. (invited)

10:30 a.m.

Advisory Panel 2: Researchers Study on Calumet Soil and Wolf Lake Water Quality

Prof. Graham Peaslee, professor of physics at Notre Dame University and member of the Northern Lake County Environmental Partnership, will discuss his findings of local soil pollution. Local community members helped gather soil samples around Whiting and north Hammond.

Dave Harnish, lab director, CCSJ; **Lisa Downs**, **Joey Hinds** and **Dave Matura** , water samplers.

11:15 a.m.

Advisory Panel 3:

Marianne Kozlowski, steward at Eggers Grove, FPDCC, will describe the

revised Wolf Lake overlook.

Olivia Schweikart, natural resource coordinator, IDNR, reports on improvements at William W. Powers State Recreation Area, inside and out.

Noon Lunch

Afternoon Schedule

1 p.m.

Advisory Panel 4: Superfund Sites

Lauren Bumba, US EPA project manager, gives updates on the last two years of work on Indian Creek Superfund site. (invited)

Adrian Palomeque, US EPA community involvement coordinator, updates us on the Federated Metals Superfund site which we discussed last year. (invited)

1:30 p.m.

Advisory Panel 5:

Developing a management plan for the Wolf Lake Watershed

Holly Hudson, senior aquatic biologist, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will bring us up to date.

1:45 p.m.

Advisory Panel 6:

Dan Spencer, regional ecologist, FPDCC, will give a brief update on the restoration work we are doing at Powderhorn Prairie & Marsh Nature Preserve and Eggers Woods.

2:00 p.m.

Advisory Panel 7:

Marwah Saleh, Calumet Coordinator, The Wetlands Initiative, will discuss two projects underway, one in Indiana, the other in Illinois. An 800-acre parcel in Gary is receiving habitat restoration improvements with the help of a coalition of environmental groups. In Illinois, the Wetland Initiative and The Nature Conservancy are working with others to restore a 181-acre hemimarsch at the Illinois International Port District.

2:30 p.m. Concluding remarks by **Dr. Phil Willink**, president, AWLI