



## NIPSCO Launch Ramp Project

### Status Report

#### June 2010

- Rick Smigielski of *Abonmarche Consultants* met with the DNR in Indianapolis last week to discuss the NIPSCO Launch Ramp Project; there may be additional grants available.

#### September 2010

- Environmental study of the potential ramp area has been completed with a satisfactory outcome. The study was comprised of findings for endangered or threatened species such as lake sturgeon, peregrine falcon and triple spike grass, none of which were found.

#### January 2011

- Rick Smigielski of *Abonmarche Consultants* has submitted the current draft of the launch ramp specifications to NIPSCO, with the final draft to be completed by the end of the week. In addition, we may be eligible for a grant through the Fish & Wildlife Division of the DNR in the amount of \$500,000.00 - \$600,000.00.

#### February 2011

- Rick Smigielski of *Abonmarche Consultants* has submitted permits for a staging area at the NIPSCO launch ramp site to both the Army COE and IDEM. Per board member Sam Johns, all environmental permits have been submitted. In regards to funding, once the updated construction estimate has been completed, Board President Mr. Jaksa will meet with the Mayor and City Council for discussion.

#### March 2011

- A questionnaire was received from IDEM regarding permits for the staging area at the NIPSCO launch ramp site, requiring a thirty (30) day response in which Rick Smigielski of *Abonmarche Consultants* will review.
- Sam Johns informed the board there was still no estimate available for the project.
- The Harbormaster and Rick Smigielski met with Andrew Blackburn from the *Army COE's* permit and regulatory department to tour the NIPSCO ramp site and discuss its prospects.

### April 2011

- The Harbormaster and Rick Smigielski met with the *DNR* regarding a discrepancy on the NIPSCO Ramp drawing along the north seawall which has since been rectified. In addition, modifications have been made to the necessary permits.
- Sam Johns informed the board the preliminary construction staging plan was not included in the original plan which is necessary to move forward, and will follow up accordingly.

### May 2011

- Along with Rick Smigielski of *Abonmarche Consultants*, the Harbormaster met with a NIPSCO representative to compile a 'Use Agreement' for the staging area at the proposed ramp site
- Sam Johns met with the representative from the *Indiana Department of Environmental Management* (IDEM) that handles our NIPSCO launch ramp permits, to conduct an in-depth review of the drawings.

### June 2011

- Sam Johns remarked that *NIPSCO* had offered a special early occupation agreement, but we have yet to receive a proposal.
- Mr. Johns also received communication from *IDEM* stating they are preparing the necessary information for us to hold public notice on the launch ramp project. Prior to this, there are additional forms we need to provide. In addition, we will not receive State & Federal permits until the *Army COE* approves them.

### July 2011

- Sam Johns along with Jim Jaksa and Harbormaster Frame, met with representatives from the *DNR Fish & Wildlife* on July 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss an environmental assessment of the NIPSCO Launch Ramp as a prelim to the public hearing, along with outside funding, and came away from the meeting feeling encouraged about the project going forward.

### August 2011

- In regards to concerns over available funding for the *NIPSCO Launch Ramp Project*, the board has explained that the plan is for the Port Authority to contribute \$250,000.00 for engineering costs, with the balance to be provided by grants and City funding.

### September 2011

- Board Attorney John Espar reviewed the temporary Right-of-Entry easement over and across the *DNR* property for the purpose of constructing a roadway to the planned boat launch, as prepared by Rick Smigielski of *Abonmarche Consultants*. He found no provisions for the Port Authority to sign off on and suggested it be filed with the Secretary as a Port Authority record.