

WIAA districts
mull realignment
proposal / B1

CHOMP!

GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE

'Jurassic Park'
returns in 3-D /
Weekend

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2013

GREENBAYPRESSGAZETTE.COM

GANNETT COMPANY

Oneida plant faces some more opposition

Are taking steps to
dissolve Oneida
Seven Generations

By Scott Cooper Williams
Press-Gazette Media

The company known as Oneida Seven Generations Corp. has endured heated public protests, adverse court rulings and insurmountable government obstacles in its quest to build a waste-to-energy gasification plant in the Green Bay area.

But now that the Oneida Tribe of Indians-owned company is trying to locate the plant on tribal land, some of its own people are talking about doing away with the company.

Opponents say they are considering taking steps to dissolve Oneida Seven Generations to prevent the company from exposing the tribe to any more financial or political turmoil.

"It's a natural progression," said Yvonne Metviter, a tribal member who is fighting plans to allow the waste-to-energy development at the former Tower Foods grocery store site west of Green Bay.

In response to a petition drive signed by more than 80 people, tribal officials have scheduled a General Tribal Council for May 5 to allow a public vote among Oneida members on whether to halt the gasification project.

Tribe spokesman Phil Wiesneski said that unless a separate petition is submitted to discuss shutting down Oneida Seven Generations, participants at the gathering will be limited to the waste-to-energy plant.

"They can't go beyond that and say, 'Well, let's dissolve the corporation,'" Wiesneski said.

But the topic is definitely on some people's minds.

Leah Dodge, another tribal member who helped to circulate the petition resulting in the May 5 gathering and referendum, said she would consider pushing to dissolve the corporation, too. If tribal leaders do not take it upon themselves to do so.

"I'm just going to wait and see what happens," she said.

Through a spokesman, Oneida Seven Generations

» See ONEIDA, A5

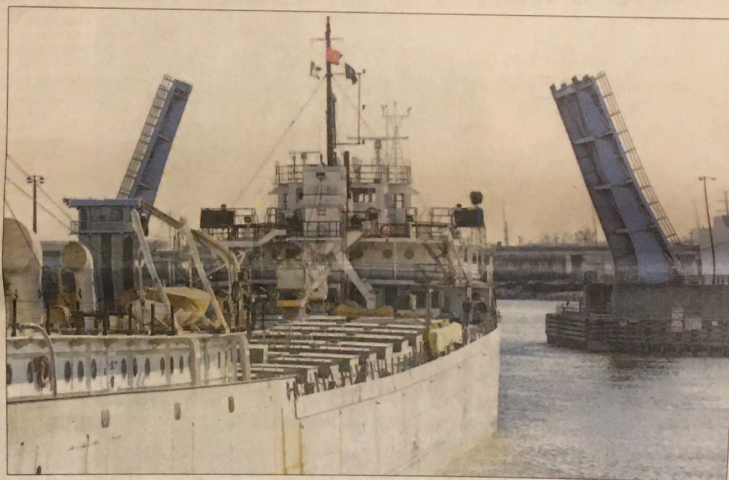


Oneida Seven Generations Corp. operates from tribal facilities at 1239 Flight-Way Drive in Nohara. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS/PRESS-GAZETTE MEDIA



Low water levels on the bay of Green Bay expose rocks and zebra mussel shells Wednesday along the shoreline at Point Comfort in the town of Scott. H. MARC LARSON/PRESS-GAZETTE MEDIA

Great Lakes LEVELS OF CONCERN



The first freighter of the season, the Alpena, makes its way Wednesday up the Fox River. JIM MATTHEWS/PRESS-GAZETTE MEDIA

AS WATERS STAY LOW, SHIPPERS FACE THE LOOMING POSSIBILITY OF MORE DANGEROUS CONDITIONS AND DIMINISHED CAPACITY. BUT THERE IS A LITTLE GOOD NEWS.

By Larry Bivins
Press-Gazette Media

WASHINGTON — As the 2013 Great Lakes shipping season begins, the latest water levels forecast offers little encouragement for commercial carriers.

Shippers should expect to encounter continued low water levels over the next six months and the possibility of having to leave some of their cargo dockside.

While water levels are not expected to reach record lows, as they did in Lake Michigan and Huron in January, they are forecast to remain well below long-term averages, according to Keith Kompoltowicz, chief of watershed hydrology for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' district office in Detroit.

For lakes Michigan and Huron, the monthly mean water levels dipped to

an all-time low of 576.02 feet in January. The previous record of 576.05 feet was set in March 1964.

Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior have been below average for 14 consecutive years, the longest stretch in their history. All the Great Lakes are below their long-term average, according to the Corps of Engineers, and are expected to remain so over the next six months. Only Lake Superior is above its 2012 level.

The good news in the forecast released Wednesday is that the seasonal rise in water levels of lakes Michigan and Huron this summer could return to normal, which is about nine to 12 inches. Last year's seasonal rise was just four inches, Kompoltowicz said.

The difference, he said, is "a large snowpack still remains, whereas this time last year the snow had already

» See LEVELS, A5

GOP seeks voucher alternative

Bill that would give tax credits to parents of students in private schools hits snag

By Scott Bauer
Associated Press

MADISON — A Republican-backed proposal giving tax credits to parents of students in private schools is being floated in the Legislature as negotiations continue behind closed doors to find an alternative to Gov. Scott Walker's school voucher expansion plan.

Republican Rep. Dean Kaufert, R-Neenah, said Wednesday the measure he is co-sponsoring

with Sen. Glenn Grothman could be a viable alternative to Walker's proposal, which has hit a roadblock in the Senate.

Walker wants to expand vouchers beyond Milwaukee and Racine to nine new school districts, based on the grades schools get on statewide report cards that began this year. He also wants to increase the amount of the voucher for eligible students and allow special needs students into the program.



Kaufert

But Republican Senate leaders have said major revisions are needed before they will accept the plan. Some object to using the report cards as triggers to get in the program, others oppose having an entire district enter just because two schools get failing grades, and others question spending \$73 million more on vouchers while public school spending is frozen.

» See BILL, A5

ISOLATED SHOWERS

High 52
Low 27
Details, A14

CLASSIFIEDS B8 OBITUARIES A12
LOTTERIES A2 PUZZLES B9, B11
NATION-WORLD A11 TELEVISION B6

CONTACT US

Newroom (920) 431-8400
Subscription (877) 424-5042
Advertising (920) 431-8300
Online (920) 431-8211

COPYRIGHT 2013



7 40901 01475 0
\$1.00
See Page A4 for printing details

INSIDE

Lefty's lives again for 2-night salute

Diehard Lefty's fans will be able to relive the glory days Friday and Saturday at Phat Headz. **Weekend, Page 4**



Military builds up forces in Asia

U.S. shifts focus to North Korea, China as wars wind down. **Nation/World, A11**

Levels

» From Page A1

melted.”
 “The lack of a large snowpack during the winter of 2011 to 2012, coupled with the very hot and dry summer of 2012, are the biggest factors leading to the lower water levels this year,” Kompoltowicz said.

Low water levels create navigational hazards for commercial carriers and that has economic repercussions for all Great Lakes stakeholders, including marinas and waterfront restaurants.

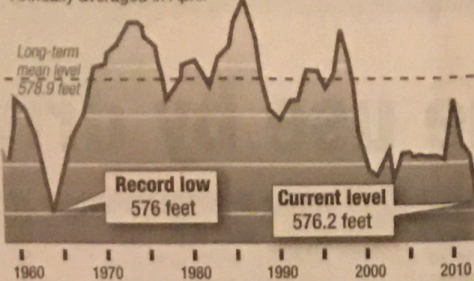
While water levels are largely a function of Mother Nature, the impact of low levels would be less severe if the federal government was more aggressive about dredging, some Great Lakes stakeholders say.

“We can’t control Mother Nature, but what we can control is the dredging issue,” said Glen Nekvasil, vice president of the Cleveland-based Lake Carriers’ Association. “We have more than 18 million cubic yards of sediment clogging our water system.”

Nekvasil said the Corps of Engineers needs \$200 million to clean up the lakes, while the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund has a surplus of \$7 billion. He said Congress approves only about half of what is collected each

Lake Michigan-Huron water levels

Annually averaged in April:



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory Press-Gazette Media

year for spending on dredging.

“As a result, our ships are substantially losing cargo capacity,” Nekvasil said. “In January, one ship delivering iron ore to Indiana had to relinquish 18 percent of its cargo.”

Commercial shipping along the Great Lakes support 128,000 jobs in Great Lakes states, Nekvasil said.

“You can’t make steel without iron ore,” Nekvasil said. “When we leave cargo at the dock, it’s not just the vessel operator’s revenues that’s being cut. This has a number of multiplier effects.”

Chuck May of the Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition agreed that low water levels underscore the dredging issues on the Great Lakes. He said his group representing 112 small harbors built and maintained by the federal government has

been trying to call attention to what some consider a crisis.

“We’re working hard to raise the crowd noise so people know how bad it is,” May said. “Harbor after harbor is in danger of closing. Short of Mother Nature giving us more precipitation, dredging is the answer to keep these open.”

Dave Wright, chief of operations in the Corps Detroit office, said dredging efforts have been hampered by budget constraints. He said 36 of 60 commercial harbors need dredging, as well as 46 of 80 shallow draft harbors. Harbors in Waukegan, Ill., and St. Joseph, Mich., are closed to commercial navigation because of low water levels.

In Michigan, Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed legislation to provide \$21 million in emergency funding for 49 dredging

projects in the state.

In Washington, lawmakers introduced two bills in the previous Congress directing the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to spend as much as it collects a year. The fund takes in about \$1.6 billion annually in federal taxes but spends just \$800 million, according to the Carriers’ Association.

Meanwhile, the National Weather Service’s spring precipitation outlook and higher snow levels than in 2012 could lead to an above-average seasonal rise for the Great Lakes.

But for the long haul, “conditions needed for the lakes to make gains with respect to their long term averages include heavy precipitation over multiple months, abundant runoff and reduced evaporation,” the Corps of Engineers said.

The Lake Carriers’ Nekvasil was not encouraged by the latest forecast and not satisfied by the Corps of Engineers emphasis on weather patterns. He said stakeholders have to keep the pressure on the federal government to do more dredging to address the issue over the long term.

“It’s going to take more than a couple snowy winters and rainy summers to get the lakes back,” he said.

—Larry Bivins at lbivins@pressgazette.com

Oneida

» From Page A1

President Kevin Cornelius and other company officials declined to comment.

Created in 1995, the company is owned by the Oneida tribe, but it operates somewhat independently, with its own board of directors.

The company has been rejected in Ashwaubenon and Green Bay in seeking a site to build its gasification plant, which would process household trash at high temperatures in a way that reduces landfill dumping. Supporters applaud the concept as clean alternative energy, but

ON THE AGENDA

Another petition for the General Tribal Council calls for setting at \$1,500 — up from \$1,200 — the revenue sharing that each tribal member receives annually from casino proceeds.

opponents liken it to an incinerator that would threaten environmental damage.

The company filed suit against Green Bay after a conditional-use permit for the development was rescinded, but a judge ruled in the city’s favor.

Just weeks after the court ruling, Oneida Seven Generations sought approval from tribe officials to locate a modified gas-

ification plant at the former Tower Foods site, N7329 Water Circle Place, in the Outagamie County town of Oneida, near the Brown County line. The tribal Oneida Land Commission approved the development, but opponents filed their petition aiming to put the matter to a public vote.

All Oneida tribe members 21 and older are eligible to participate in a General Tribal Council.

Dodge voiced confidence that a majority would support her effort to block the gasification development.

She said her petition was “a petition of the people.”

Metivier, meanwhile, called the General Tribal

Concealed Carry
 Firearms Training Available

Family Shooting Academy
 1976 Verlin Rd., Green Bay
 The Area’s Only Indoor Shooting Range And Firearms Training Center!

Training Is Not Our Hobby, It’s Our Business!
 www.FamilyShootingAcademy.com • 920-393-4006

QUALITY ASPHALT

Specializing in Blacktopping Driveways & Parking Lots
 Maintenance & Excavating & Grading
 2425 Sunny Ln, Green Bay, WI 54313

Vote Quality Asphalt for 2013’s Best Asphalt/Driveway Company!

Mike Bringe
 Green Bay
 (920) 434-0584
 Mobile: 655-0138

Class of 2014 ... Senior Portrait Offers
BOOK EARLY!

Come Celebrate with us and jump on an incredible Senior Portrait offer

“The Simple 60”
 1 hour of photography - all indoors \$95.00 + tax
 (Upgrade your session \$30 to also include 1/2 hour of outdoor photography)

Set up this appointment before April 26 AND RECEIVE A \$200 CREDIT TO BE APPLIED TO PORTRAITS/PORTRAIT PRODUCTS.*

*Session must be taken in either May or June 2013.

Harmann Studios

Be Pere 1101 W. Main Ave.
 920-883-8600
 Luxemburg 378 Center Dr.
 920-845-2415
 www.harmann.com

Wed Appreciate Your Votes

Two Days Only
April 6th & 7th