

Wed, Oct 31, 2007

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10 am

1 couldn't be here today because of a prior
2 commitment. She'll be sending in a written
3 statement.

4 MR. LANYON: Thank you.

5 Mr. Ken Schneider.

6 Ms. Jennifer Slosat. Is that you?

7 MS. SLOSAT: That's me.

8 MR. LANYON: It's your turn.

9 COMMISSIONER HORTON: Come on down.

10 MS. SLOSAT: Hi. My name is Jennifer
11 Slosat. I have a bit of a cold, so bear with me.

12 I'm a resident of the 4500 north block
13 Chicago. I live just about three blocks east of the
14 river, and I work with an organization called
15 Riverbank Neighbors.

16 We are part of a whole community around
17 that stretch from Berteau to Foster that works on
18 restoring the riverbank, tending it every weekend
19 pulling out invasive species, making sure we prevent
20 soil erosion, and just this past summer they planted
21 an incredible stretch of native prairie flowers
22 along one part of that bank. It is very beautiful.
23 There's a path there that we keep up. If you
24 haven't seen that part of it, you should really look

1 at it.

2 I'm here to second this idea that
3 disinfecting the river is a really basic public
4 safety step that we have to take here. That river
5 is used a lot in the summer and fall, especially
6 when we have the Indian summer like we do. Not just
7 canoeing and kayaking, but fishing. We see people
8 fishing there all the time, although we try to tell
9 them that's not a good idea. Little kids playing by
10 the riverbank collecting frogs and turtles.

11 We even saw one time a guy had a fight
12 with his girlfriend on the Montrose Bridge, and he
13 jumped into the river and swam. By the time the
14 firemen found these wet tracks going up to Berteau,
15 he had swum about three quarters of a mile. I don't
16 know what happened to this guy, but he's known in
17 the neighborhood as The Guy who Jumped Off into the
18 Chicago River for Love.

19 So this river is used a lot, and as
20 someone who taught at the Latin School for four
21 years, I can tell you the kids from the crew team
22 did, for whatever reason, occasionally fall into the
23 river and had full body contact. To me this is a
24 basic public safety and health issue; and I can only

1 say if Chicago really does want to live up to its
2 reputation of being green, dealing with the river in
3 this most fundamental way is one of the basic steps
4 that have to be taken. And I really applaud the
5 MWRD for looking at this issue.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER HORTON: Thank you.

8 MR. LANYON: A few more names here.

9 Mr. Lyman Welch.

10 COMMISSIONER HORTON: And please, as you
11 come forward remember, to speak directly into the
12 speaker. Thank you. The microphone.

13 MR. WELCH: I'm Lyman Welch, and I'm here
14 as the Water Quality Program Manager for the
15 Alliance for the Great Lakes. The Alliance is a
16 nonprofit organization headquartered in Chicago. It
17 works to conserve and restore the world's largest
18 freshwater resource through policy, education, and
19 local efforts aimed at preserving the Great Lakes
20 region as a national treasure.

21 The Alliance urges the MWRD to take action
22 now to No. 1, disinfect its wastewater; and No. 2,
23 to continue to work to eliminate its combined sewer
24 overflows. These two measures combined will work to