

Press Release

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WATERFRONT COMMUNITY MEETING - AUGUST 20TH

The City of Onalaska has been actively preparing the Onalaska waterfront for future development throughout summer 2014.

"With the recent removal of the bait shop buildings and selective tree trimming that the Streets & Utility Departments have completed, views of the Black River are finally opening up to the public," said Joe Chilsen, Mayor of Onalaska, "This is Onalaska's waterfront and we want our residents and businesses to be involved in how the area is developed. Momentum is building on this project and we very much want the public's opinion and involvement, we want all voices heard."

To further that end the City of Onalaska would like to invite the public to the first in a series of public meetings. These meeting are involvement opportunities regarding the Onalaska waterfront project. From August through October, the City will host a community meeting and a three day *charrette* which is an intensive collaborative design and planning session which will result in a schematic design for Onalaska's waterfront. Once the design is finalized the City's consultant team, along with the Onalaska Waterfront Committee, will advance the design through preliminary engineering and cost estimation for construction.

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The first community meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 20th, from 6-8pm at Irving Pertzsch Elementary School, 524 Main Street, in the Community Room. The agenda will cover project background and history, the planning and charrette process and an inspirational waterfront presentation.

The three day charrette will take place September 29 - October 1, 2014. The schematic design produced during the charrette aims to further the forward-looking vision of the City, overcome a challenging environmental setting, balance public demands, and be a model for sustainable waterfront development. In an effort to maximize citizen participation, there will be several public input sessions during the charrette.

"We look forward to working with the public on the review of the Waterfront Plan that was adopted in 2008," said Brea Grace, Land Use & Development Director with the City of Onalaska, "It's a strong plan and we'd like to gather some additional public input to confirm how to develop Onalaska's waterfront and if anything should change from the 2008 plan before we start developing engineered drawings for construction. We are determined that this project will be an active collaboration between the City and the citizens."