

ST. CLAIR RIVER BI-NATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting 2008-2

City of Algonac Municipal Bldg.,
805 St. Clair River Drive,
Algonac, MI 48001

Thursday, May 1, 2008
6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Kris Lee	Phil Vallance	Dean Barnett
Fred Kemp	Darrell Randell	Al Lewandowski
Stewart Thornley	Janice Littlefield	Tip Haagsma
Fred Fuller	Bela Trebics	Ted Briggs
Terry Burrell	Doug Martz	Susan Schoen
Frank Frisk	Archie Kerr	Patty Troy
Rick Hobrla	Rose Ellison	
Nick Veriotes (alternate for John Thompson)		
Frank Schoonover (alternate for Whitey Simon)		

REGRETS:

Sue Levesque	Penny Peck	Al Lewandowski
Paulette Duhaime	John Jackson	Jim Clatworthy

GUESTS:

Keenan Johnson (WIFN)	Amanda Bennett
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1. Welcome and Introductions

Janice Littlefield called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 p.m., followed by introductions

2. Approve Draft Agenda

The Draft Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of February 7, 2008 Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes were approved.

4. BPAC Elections

Bela Trebics and **Kris Lee** were re-elected as Canadian Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

Janice Littlefield was re-elected as U.S. Chair, and **Fred Kemp** was elected as U.S Vice-Chair.

Fred Fuller was elected as Chair, Membership Committee.

Patty Troy and **Paulette Duhaime** were elected as SPAC representatives.

Phil Vallance and **John Jackson** were re-elected to represent BPAC at CRIC.

5. Presentation by Amanda Bennett

Title: Great Invaders: A Continuation
Mercury Amplification and Bioremediation Through Methylation and Demethylation
By Escherichia coli

Amanda Bennett a student at Marysville High School, Marysville, MI gave an excellent presentation of a project that she will be presenting at the, in the Environmental Management Category of the, **Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (“Intel ISEF”) 2008**, a U.S. wide competition. The focus of this project is to assess the effects that invasive species (e.g. round gobies, zebra mussels, and quagga mussels) are having on the mercury cycle in the Great Lakes, and to develop a system by which such mercury contamination can be removed in waterways all over the world.

Ms. Bennett determined that E. coli bacteria play a major role in the mercury cycle (through bioremediation) and in turn used this knowledge to develop a filtration system to remove mercury from the aquatic environment.

This was followed by a discussion in response to questions and answers. At this time, Debbie Hayes, Chair, St. County Water Quality Board, informed the BPAC about the yet-to-be-released results of MDEQ analyses of mercury in walley collected in 2006 from the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair. Ms. Hayes indicated that test results indicate particular concern for walley longer than 22 inches.

6 Proposed Shell Refinery

Keenan Johnson, representing the Walpole Island First Nation (WIFN), expressed concern for the proposed refinery. WIFN feels that the provincial Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is incomplete. Mr. Johnson outlined concern about proposed changes in zoning that could lead to conflicts with WIFN. Mr. Johnson invited the BPAC to attend an Open House on Walpole Island scheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., May 8th, 2008, to discuss the EA Scoping Document.

Motion:

It was moved by Doug Martz, seconded by Frank Frisk) that BPAC prepare a letter to Transport Canada requesting that the Federal EA proceed as a Panel Study to allow public involvement, and that the Panel Study include First Nations and U.S. representation. The letter is to be received by Transport Canada no later than May 26, 2008.

Motion passed.

The letter is to be prepared by Janice Littlefield and copied to Environment Canada (Sandra Kok).

Motion:

It was moved by Archie Kerr, seconded by Kris Lee, that BPAC send a letter to Heather Cooper, Public Consultation Coordinator, Shell Canada Products, requesting that Shell make a presentation to BPAC about the provincial Environmental Assessment (EA). The letter will request a focused presentation addressing any findings of the EA, that might affect the status of the Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs).

Motion passed.

The letter is to be prepared by Archie Kerr.

Action:

Stew Thornley and Phil Vallance are to work out a date and venue for Shell to address the BPAC.

7. Committee Reports

i) SPAC

Patty Troy made a number of announcements on behalf of SPAC. Patty informed BPAC that Christine Aiello is the new MDEQ representative on BPAC. Rick Hobrila of the MDEQ, Water Bureau, informed BPAC that owing to various reasons Ms. Aiello will unfortunately not be immediately available.

A number of U.S. politicians/legislators have been added to the BPAC e-mail distribution list in support of SPAC and BPAC.

SPAC was a stakeholder in a conference call with MDEQ, in support of a \$1.3 B bond proposal under the Clean Michigan Initiative(?).

Motion:

It was moved by (?), seconded by Phil Vallance that BPAC to prepare a letter of support for the bond proposal.

Motion passed.

The economic benefits of Great Lakes restoration as outlined in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration strategy is the subject of a Brookings Institute report (http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2007/0904gleiecosystem_austin.aspx.) The report will be highlighted in a legislative briefing by the SPAC, possibly in June.

Rick Hobrila from MDEQ informed BPAC that it is considering re-designating the BUI for dredging to not impaired in four AOCs, including the St. Clair River.

iii) Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR)

Darrell Randell updated BPAC on the progress of the signage program. Darrell indicated that additional funding is necessary to complete the signs.

Darrell reported on a 2 1/2 acre wetland along Clay Creek.

St. Clair Township successfully applied for and received an infrastructure grant allowing it too extend services out to Wilkesport.

iv) Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed (FOSCRW)

In the interest of time, Janice Littlefield had no new information to present to BPAC

iv) CRIC

Phil Vallance reported that the CRIC met on February 20, 2008. At the meeting the RAP Action Plan was reviewed. Phil drew BPAC attention to a Recommendation and Action on Page 18 for BPAC to work with CRIC to “strengthen *Natural Heritage Policies* in Lambton County and municipalities”.

Action:

Darrell Randell, Janice Littlefield and Archie Kerr to review Lambton County Official Plan.

There was a discussion at CRIC regarding the advisability of a workshop for municipalities and others to discuss the progress and status of the Action Plan

Action:

Darrell Randell, Janice Littlefield and Archie Kerr to discuss the need for a workshop .

v) BPAC Membership Sub-committee

Fred Fuller did not submit any new information.

vi) OPAC

John Jackson did not submit any information updates on behalf of OPAC.

13. Other

Ted Briggs informed BPAC that the Four Agency Managers Committee has scheduled meetings for February, May and September, 2008.

Fred Kemp indicated that he would prepare a letter requesting a new U.S. municipal representative for BPAC.

14. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting of the BPAC is scheduled for **June 23, 2008** in **Sarnia**, at the Lambton – Kent School Board offices.

The meeting was adjourned.