

# ST. CLAIR RIVER BI-NATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Final Minutes

Meeting 2007-5

St. Clair County Administration Building  
200 Grand River Ave. (Auditorium)  
Port Huron, Michigan

Thursday, June 21, 2007  
6:30 p.m.

### ATTENDEES:

Janice Littlefield	Bela Trebics	Kristen O. Jurs
Daniel Collins	Paulette Duhaine	Frank Frisk
Judy Ogden	Patty Troy	Doug Steen (Kris
Lee Alternate)		
Howard Heidemann	Jennifer Vincent	Ted Briggs
Frank Schoonover	Eric J. Barnowski	Stew Thornley
Doug Martz	Adam Stachecki (US Rep Candice Miller)	

### GUESTS:

Martha Gruelle

### REGRETS:

Kris Lee	Geoff Donaldson	Donald Craig
Archie Kerr	Chris Christenson	Fred Fuller
Vicki Donohue	Tip Haagsma	John Johnson

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Janice Littlefield, U.S. Co-Chair, called the meeting to order, followed by introductions.

#### 2. Approve Agenda

It was moved by Dan Collins and seconded by Bela Trebics to accept the agenda.

3. Approve May 9, 2007 Draft Minutes

Patty Troy moved to accept the minutes at the next meeting, when we have hard copies.

4. Water Treatment Plant intake monitoring

The presentation was given by Eric Barnowski. Eric indicated that there has been federal interest in the Huron to Erie corridor system. There will be a Public website posting results in the future. One or more of the following four pieces of equipment will be installed at each site:

1. Multiparameter probe - 4 are presently online
2. Total Organic Carbon (TOC) analyzer (total organic compounds) at Cluster sites
3. Fluorimeter - petroleum compounds
4. Gas chromatography/mass spectrometer

Currently they are networking with the emergency alert system. Calibrating equipment is the current challenge; determining appropriate background level. There are also challenges associated with transferring knowledge from consultants to plant operators and making the system fully automated. Eric stressed that there are many things to work out still and it will be one to two years until they can make any public conclusions. Notification across the river has already improved. When the system is completely operating it will protect 3.8 million people. Doug Martz brought up need to integrate surface water sampling into this system because we will miss 80% of the spills that stay on the surface. Eric said that he agrees but that they are still working out the bugs in the current system

**Motion:**

Doug Martz made a motion for BPAC to write a letter in support of taking surface water samples at the 4 Cluster sites, seconded by Frank Frisk

Discussion: P. Troy and H. Heidemann. Letter should be addressed to: Candice Miller, Debbie Stabenow, Ken DeBeaussaert, Carl Levin, and Sander Levin.

None opposed. Motion carried.

5. Huron to Erie Waterways for Wildlife Project

The presentation was given by Martha Gruelle who directs the Huron to Erie *Waterways for Wildlife* Project, which is a binational project of Wildlife Habitat Council. WHC is a non-governmental organization formed by companies and conservation groups in 1988 to enhance habitat on corporate properties. In the Lake Huron to Lake Erie corridor, WHC has 12 corporate members who manage 36 active industrial and commercial sites for the benefit of wildlife. Major supporters include DTE Energy, Ontario Power Generation, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Marathon Petroleum, and the Michigan DEQ. Martha is developing a presentation about riparian buffers for corporate land managers in the area, and asked BPAC members to suggest companies or locations that might be interested. Work is currently focusing on providing urban/suburban migration stop over sites, and eradicating invasive plant species, such as the Phragmites control workshop recently held at Metrobeach. In SE MI they are focusing on riparian buffers along the shoreline for the corporate sector.

Martha may be reached at [gruellem@dteenergy.com](mailto:gruellem@dteenergy.com) or 313-235-9627. The project website is [www.wildlifehc.org/stclairwaterways](http://www.wildlifehc.org/stclairwaterways).

6. SCC Storm Water Program Update/ New Education Initiatives of FO SCR W

Kristen O. Jurs provided an update on the St. Clair County Health Department's Storm Water Program since October 2006 and the public education activities of FO SCR W. The following is a list of some activities presented:

Public Education:

- Water Quality Presentations to 275 adults
- "Pollution Solutions" to 1,300 students
- River Day – 14 events
- Sponsored Earth Fair,

2000 participants

- Sponsored a Native Plant Sale Quality Float
- Large increase in website hits - 2,579 newsletters distributed
- Hotline Poster Contest, 300 5th grade participants
- Developed a Water
- 1,140 Blue Watershed

#### Illicit Discharge Elimination:

##### Violations Statistics to date:

- Found: 631
- Corrected: 446
- Uncorrected: 195

#### Watershed Planning

The two watershed groups, Northeastern Watersheds and the Anchor Bay Watershed, are in the implementation and evaluation phase. The groups are in need of more water quality monitoring information for the tributaries and more outreach regarding watershed planning objectives to their respective governing boards. St. Clair County is addressing many aspects of the watershed plans through a storm water policy which is in draft form.

#### US Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed (FOSCRW) Public Education Plan

Kristen also spoke about the FOSCRW) public education plan, indicating the plan is in draft form but that the activities are based on the themes:

- *Enhance* Habitat Diversity
- *Evaluate* Water Quality
- *Eliminate* Pollution Sources
- *Celebrate* Healthy Water!

FOSCRW are currently working on how they will use Earthvoyager as the flagship and encouraged anyone with ideas to contact her.

## 7. Committee Reports

### i) SPAC

It was reported that John Jackson and Bob Weir are representing the St. Clair River BPAC at the conference, "Great Lakes Areas of Concern: Achieving Restoration Targets and Sustaining Stewardship" to be held June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Cleveland, Ohio.

The conference will convene participants from the 30 U.S. Great Lakes Areas of Concern to review recent developments affecting the AOC program; assess the status of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's AOC recommendations; identify opportunities to expedite progress on key AOC tasks; improve linkages among the AOCs, Lakewide Management

Plans and other programs; and consider actions that will strengthen the regional U.S. AOC program.

ii) OPAC

Owing to Technical difficulties with connecting the speaker phone, John Jackson was unable to provide a report.

iii) FOSCR

Darrell Randell was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a written report read by Stew Thornley. The report contained information on the Friends angler survey conducted to gather information on fish taste, and the aesthetics of the St. Clair River. However, the number of responses are far short of what was hoped for. Some efforts are ongoing to get more responses. Surveys have been placed in some targeted areas and will be collected. The website, [www.friendsofstclair.ca](http://www.friendsofstclair.ca) provides convenient way for someone to participate. Other action may be required and will be considered.

At the June 6, 2007 meeting of FOSCR, there was discussion around supporting the outdoor education program on Walpole Island via the Heritage Centre, in order to help maintain the strong traditional heritage of caring for such important natural features of the Great Lakes. Strong indication to support was given and FOSCR is waiting for a formal request describing what is needed.

At the meeting, agreement was also reached to support a restoration project in conjunction with Lambton Wildlife Incorporated (LWI) and other partners. FOSCR will support a 2.4 acre oxbow wetland restoration and LWI will provide the planting of trees and native grasses on the 20+ acres of upland area along Clay Creek.

**NOTE:** FOSCR and LWI each received \$30,000 of court imposed fines and want to have a shared project to demonstrate the benefit and cooperation of local environmental organizations.

Factsheets and the "Countdown to Delisting" documents have been widely distributed.

The powerpoint has been used by a number of BPAC members. I would like to see it used even more. If you have given a presentation using it please inform Stew Thornley as he is tracking this for us.

List of Power Point Presentations to Date

- i) **Patty Troy** – Blue Water Shutterbugs, Port Huron Rotary Club, Acheson Colloids Co. employees, St. Clair City Rotary Club, Pine River Nature Club, River Day, Port Huron Optimists.
- ii) **Darrell Randell** – St. Clair Township Council and Department Heads, Brigden Horticultural Society.
- iii) **Donald Craig** – St. Clair Region Conservation Authority full Authority Board and senior staff.
- iv) **Bela Trebis/Kris Lee** – Dresden Rotary Club.
- v) **Archie Kerr** – Lanxess Public Advisory Board.

**If any other presentations have been given please contact Stew Thornley.**

iv) BPAC Membership

Fred Fuller was unable to attend the meeting, however, he did note that there was no new information to report

v) CRIC

Phil Vallance reported that a Final Draft of the CRIC Work Plan has been circulated for review. Comments may be forwarded to Stew Thornley, Ted Briggs or Jennifer Vincent. The deadline for the submission of review comments has been extended to July 31, 2007.

vi) FOSCRW/Other

“Green Gathering” at Pine Grove Park is to be held on August 18<sup>th</sup> and will provide

an opportunity for US Power Point presentations.

Patty Troy encouraged US BPAC members to get out and give presentations. Patty agreed to send Stew Thornley a list of the presentations made in the US so far.

J. Littlefield spoke about the recent conference call held regarding the US St. Clair River AOC Fish & Wildlife Habitat Management Plan. She indicated that the Technical Committee is still looking for members. It will be an 18-month project in conjunction with the consulting firm of ECT. A kick off meeting will be on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Stew Thornley asked for a copy of the work plan.

Dan Collins suggested a formal press release regarding the arrival of Earthvoyager.

Bela Trebics provided information on the proposed new Shell refinery. He indicated that the proposed refinery is expected to

cover 8,000 acres and will take about 2 years to complete an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposal. It was indicated that the "Terms of Reference" for the proposed Shell refinery requires consultation with the BPAC. Bela agreed to invite Shell to make a presentation at the next BPAC meeting.

9) Adjourn/Next Meeting

The next meeting of the BPAC is set for **Thursday, September 20, 2007** at 6:30 p.m. in Sarnia at the Lambton - Kent District School Board Auditorium, 200 Wellington St., Sarnia, Ont.

The meeting was adjourned.