

ST. CLAIR RIVER BI-NATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Final Minutes

Meeting 2009-1

**Great Lakes Maritime Center
51 Water Street
Port Huron, MI.**

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Archie Kerr
Judy Ogden
Stewart Thornley
Al Lewandowsky
Terry Burrell
Kris Lee
Tip Haagsma
Dan Collins

Phil Vallance
Sandra Kok
Janice Littlefield
Bela Trebics
Rose Ellison
Fred Kemp
Vicki Donohue
Charles Miller

Frank Frisk
Jody Wingfield
Patty Troy
Frank Schoonover
Mark Richardson
Modris Zandbergs
Patty Hayman

REGRETS:

Darrell Randell
Whitey Simon
Kim Gledhill

Ted Briggs
Christine Loeffler
Paulette Duhaime

John Jackson
Jim Clatworthy

GUESTS:

Christine Alexander (MDEQ)

Annette DeMaria (ECT)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Janice Littlefield called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m., followed by a round of introductions

2. Approve Draft Agenda

The Draft Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of December 4, 2008 and September 18, 2008 Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes were approved as amended.

4. Elections

Stew Thornley opened the floor to nominations.

Motion:

It was moved by Patty Troy, and seconded by Terry Burrell, that the existing slate of positions remain as is. Motion passed.

Bela Trebics (Canadian Co-chair); Janice Littlefield (U.S. Co-chair); Kris Lee (Canadian Co-Vice-chair); Fred Kemp (U.S. Co-Vice-chair); SPAC representatives (Patty Troy, Sharon Bender); CRIC representatives (Phil Vallance, John Jackson).

Note:

The position of Chair, BPAC Membership Committee, was not filled. Stew Thornley agreed to fill this Chair position on an interim basis.

5. St. Clair River E. coli Monitoring Update

The presentation, given jointly by Christine Alexander (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) and Annette DeMaria (Environmental Consulting & Engineering), outlined the background, goals and objectives, study design and results to date. The St. Clair River is listed as an Area of Concern (AOC) owing to a number of impaired beneficial uses (BUIs) including the BUI - Beach Closings. To remove this BUI in Michigan, the levels of E. coli must be in compliance with Michigan's Water Quality Standards.

Sampling was conducted over a 16-week period from July to October, 2008. Nine more weeks of sampling is scheduled for the Spring, 2009. The BPAC was invited to input to the consideration for possible alternative transect locations for the Spring, 2009 sampling. While the study focus is on Michigan waters, some reference samples were collected along the Ontario shoreline. Sampling to date reveals very low numbers of bacteria.

Motion:

It was moved by Kris Lee, and seconded by Archie Kerr, that Bela Trebics contact the Sarnia - Lambton Health Unit, to notify them about the study and sampling scheduled for the Spring, 2009. Motion passed.

There was a brief discussion as to what the results to date mean with respect to the possibility of delisting the BUI for Beach Closings. In this regard the BPAC suggested that this matter be brought to the CRIC for discussion.

BPAC requested a presentation by MDEQ after the study and report are completed.

6. Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat – Michigan Delisting BUI

Janice Littlefield outlined the report to the BPAC. The report has been forwarded to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and comments were fielded. The BPAC commented on several errors in the report. Janice indicated that although the report has been sent to MDEQ, she is confident that corrections can be made.

Motion:

Patty Troy motioned, and seconded by Judy Ogden, that in recognition of the discussion of the report, BPAC accept the delisting report. Motion passed.

The motion stands with the friendly amendment that comments from BPAC, to be received by February 28, 2008, will be forwarded to MDEQ.

7. Environment Canada – Sustainability Fund Projects

Sandra Kok from Environment Canada, in recognition of time constraints, agreed to defer this presentation until the next BPAC meeting

8. U.S. – Canadian BUI Classification Differences.

Stew Thornley, for those who missed the explanation by Ted Briggs at the previous meeting, very briefly explained the reason for the differences in BUI numbers between Michigan and Ontario/Canada. In Ontario there are three BUI classifications: 1) not impaired; 2) impaired; 3) requires further study. In Michigan there are only two classifications. In Michigan, BUIs are either 1) impaired or 2) not impaired. Accordingly the BUI status is: Impaired: Canada 8 US 10; Requires Further Assessment: Canada 4 US 0; Unimpaired: Canada 2 US 4.

9. Sarnia Justice Film Festival.

Tip Haagsma made a brief presentation, following a request from the Sarnia Justice Film Festival (SJFF), to have the SCR AOC display at the March 21, 2009 SJCC presentation of the film; "Blue Gold: World Water Wars". Tip briefly explained the background of the SJFF and their desire to show this particular film to the Sarnia-Lambton community to generate greater understanding among the general public about our water resources. Tip provided handouts on the Film Festival.

10. Binational AOC Workshop (request for volunteers)

At the September 18, 2008 BPAC meeting, John Jackson had outlined the purpose of a tri-binational AOC workshop, anticipated to be held in October, 2008. The workshop was delayed and is now scheduled for 2009. At the 2008 BPAC meeting a number of BPAC members volunteered to help with the workshop, however, their names were misplaced. Three of the volunteers were Bela Trebics, Patty Troy and Janice Littlefield. No other volunteers came forward at this meeting.

Note:

Would those BPAC members who had volunteered previously, and others able to volunteer to help with the up-coming workshop please contact Stew Thornley or John Jackson.

11. Other

Patty Troy described the water infrastructure documentary *Liquid Assets* and requested BPAC support for a public viewing. Janice Littlefield, Judy Ogden, Kristen Jurs, and Frank Frisk agreed to help.

(As a follow up to the above item, the public viewing is being co-sponsored by the City of Port Huron and the BPAC. It will be at the Port Huron Municipal Office Center on Thursday, April 23rd from 7 – 9 p.m.).

The remainder of the meeting, including the Agenda Items: Committee Reports; and Other, was postponed until the next meeting, owing to the late hour.

12. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting of the BPAC was set for **March 25, 2009** to be held at **6:30 p.m.** in **Sarnia, ON, in the Lambton – Kent District School Board boardroom.**

The meeting was adjourned.