

# ST. CLAIR RIVER BI-NATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL Final Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2009

Lambton-Kent District School Board Auditorium  
200 Wellington St.  
Sarnia, Ontario

## ATTENDEES:

Janice Littlefield  
Stewart Thornley  
Kris Lee  
Terry Burrell  
Donna Thompson  
Archie Kerr

Sue Levesque  
Al Lewandowsky  
Rose Ellison  
Frank Schoonover  
Tip Haagsma  
Fred Kemp

Darrell Randell  
Patty Troy  
Kristen O. Jurs  
Bela Trebics  
Whitey Simon

## GUESTS:

Ken Hall (FOSCR)  
Kim Gledhill (SCRCA)

Charles Miller (Harsens Island, St. Clair Flats Association)  
Jan Dawes (SCRCA)

## REGRETS:

Sandra Kok  
Phil Vallance

Christine Loeffler  
Vicki Donohue

Modris Zandbergs  
Ted Briggs

Bela Trebics called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval February 11, 2009 Draft Minutes.

The minutes were approved as amended.

4. St. Clair County Storm Water Program Update

Kristen O. Jurs, from the St. Clair County Health Department explained that presentations to BPAC are part of a state grant requirement. Storm water is regulated by the Health Department, anywhere the county owns a storm water system ultimately discharging to a watercourse or to

another jurisdiction. Components of the storm water program include: Public Education; Illicit Discharge Elimination; Pollution prevention and Good Housekeeping; Construction Controls; and Post-construction Controls. As part of Public Education, Kristen outlined the current emphasis on the Stream Leaders Programs

5. St. Clair Region C. A St. Clair River AOC Rap Song and Video

Kim Gledhill and Jan Dawes, from the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority outlined the components of the environmental education program for schools. The program is supported by funding from both the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) and Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR). In addition to the use of the rap song, other components of the school educational program include: a farm and community scale model to demonstrate how pollutants are transported to watercourses; a Power Point presentation; and homework assignments requiring students to develop an environmental lifestyle "action plan". Jan Dawes performed the rap song and emphasized how well received it has become. Jan stressed the potential for the rap song as the preferred medium and music genre to reach today's youth. Jan and Kim outlined the intent to produce a music video of the rap song if funding can be obtained. The video will recruit local youth to help sell to youth. It has been estimated that the rap video should cost approximately \$10,000. To date, the SCRCA has committed \$2,000. The FOSCR has offered to provide matching funds from the SCRCA up to \$4,000. If funding is available, it is anticipated that auditions for the video will be held in June, 2009, and shooting of the video will occur in July, 2009. Archie Kerr informed the SCRCA of a reasonable possibility of securing funds through the Suncor Sustainability Fund, and further suggested approaching Shell and possibly other local industry.

6. St. Clair River AOC Tainting BUI Re-designation

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality recently approached the BPAC to inform them that based on available information, the DEQ and EPA support re-designation the BUI for Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavour, from "Requires Further Assessment" to "Not Impaired", and further inquired if the BPAC also support removing the Tainting BUI from the US side of the AOC?

As part of the discussion, Darrell Randell indicated the BPAC that already moved to support such a re-designation at the BPAC meeting of December 4, 2008. Minutes from that meeting read:

*"It was moved by Darrell Randell, seconded by Jim Clatworthy that:*

***BPAC, based on the three reports, recommends that the BUI for Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavour, be re-designated from "requires further assessment on a St. Clair River basis" to "not impaired".***

*Motion carried."*

Archie Kerr reminded BPAC that by purposely choosing the wording, "on a St. Clair River basis", it was the intent of the motion to include both the Canadian and U.S. sides of the river.

It was the consensus of BPAC that a letter be sent to MDEQ indicating BPAC support of the MDEQ and U.S. EPA to remove the BUI for Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavour for the U. S. side of the St. Clair River.

**Action:**

**Stew Thornley to inform the BPAC Co-Chairs regarding the procedure for a press release.**

7. Proposed Elimination of MDEQ Wetlands Program

Patty Troy brought this matter to the attention of BPAC. The BPAC was informed of Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm's proposal to hand over protection of Michigan wetlands to the federal government.

It was moved by Patty Troy, seconded by Judy Ogden that: BPAC send a letter to Governor Granholm disagreeing with the proposal. Motion carried.

**Action:**

**Patty Troy, to draft a letter on behalf of BPAC opposing the proposal to transfer the protection of Michigan's wetlands to the federal government.**

8. Committee Reportsi) SPAC

Janice Littlefield reported that recent SPAC activities are all about lobbying, and stimulus dollars.

ii) OPAC

Janice Littlefield informed BPAC that John Jackson had recently held a conference call concerning the conference for the three Connecting Channels Bi-national AOCs. John was requesting the BPAC preference: 1) for May 1st, 2nd, or 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for the conference date; and 2) whether or not BPAC supported conference attendance by agencies or not.

BPAC preferred a conference date of May 29, 2009, however, requested an agenda before deciding on the attendance by agencies.

iii) FOSCR

Darrell Randell held a meeting on March 12, 2009. The SCRCA presented the rap song that they are using in their environmental program for schools. FOSCR voted to provide matching funds, to a maximum of \$4000, to those from the SCRCA for the development of a rap song video. Darrell reported that FOSCR had been recognized by the SCRCA for environmental work in general and for outreach/education work in particular. The Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) also recently announced the winners of the St. Clair River Youth Awareness Contest that challenged teenagers in Lambton and Kent Counties to learn more about the health of the river through an online contest during January and February.

The contest winners received an X Box 360 Pro gaming console at a special presentation on Monday, March 16th at the St. Clair Township Municipal office in Mooretown.

Ken Hall, the FOSCR webmaster updated the BPAC on the website outlining the number and diversity of "hits", including queries from Romania, Australia, South Korea and Poland. The most popular webpage was the photo contest pictures.

Ken queried BPAC about suggested venues for the new St. Clair River display.

iv) FOSCRW

Kristen O. Jurs reported that the main focus of FOSCRW has been an initiative called Stream Leaders, an environmental educational program involving hands-on monitoring of aquatic macroinvertebrate organisms. While this program has had success with corporate funding, overall there is a shortage of funds for work by FOSCRW.

v) Membership Sub-Committee

Stew Thornley had nothing new to report.

vi) CRIC

There was no CRIC report

8. Other Business

Janice Littlefield received support from BPAC to prepare a letter of support for proposed habitat restoration work for the following sites: a spawning reef in Middle Channel; a 550 acre hunt club on Harsens Island; Marysville–Cuttle Creek; Port Huron-2 sites; Acheson Ventures property-0.8 acres south of Black River; and Chenal A Bout Rond Channel, Michigan.

Ken Hall informed the BPAC that Blue Water Anglers (BWA) had recently released brown trout, rainbow trout and salmon at the headwaters of the St. Clair River; and wondered about a letter of recognition.

It was agreed that Ken would forward BWA contact information to Bela Trebics.

9. Adjourn/Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June **11, 2009**. in Port Huron, MI. Exact location to be announced. The meeting was adjourned.

