

St. Clair River BPAC

Meeting #36

Palmer Park Recreation Centre
Port Huron, Michigan

Wednesday May 30, 2001
6:30 pm
DRAFT meeting minutes

Attendees:

Bob Allen

Tip Haagsma

Dan Rhein

Sharon Bender

Fred Kemp

Frank Schoonover

Dan Collins

Ted Kierstead

Geoff Smith

Ron Denning

Kris Lee

Patricia Troy

Geoffrey Donaldson

Janice Littlefield

Bud West

Fred Fuller

Timothy Morse

Modris Zandbergs

Rick Gallerno

Darrell Randell

Staff/Guests:

Norm Foster

John Marsden

Bob Weir

Gary Johnson

Janet Planck

Mike Williams

Kennon Johnson

1. The meeting was called to order by Fred Kemp at 6:40. All attendees introduced themselves.
2. Agenda was approved with several changes/additions.
3. Approve February 8th, 2001 meeting summary. Moved by Rick Gallerno, 2nd by Modris Zandbergs to accept. **Carried.** Sharon Bender requested clarification on a question posed to Larry MacDonald of NOVA on airborne pollutants. G. Johnson to check against notes. Modris Zandbergs was present at the Feb. 8th BPAC meeting.

4. Spill notification protocol

Mike Moroney, District Manager of the MOE Sarnia District Office gave an overview of the Spill notification protocols currently agreed to by the Province of Ontario and State of Michigan. Mr. Moroney indicated that notification only occurs if an impact from a spill is anticipated.

Walpole Island and Wallaceburg are notified of all spills same day if impact anticipated, on the next business day if no impact. Mr. Moroney noted that initially Michigan was notified of all spills and this was changed at the request of the State to notification of only those spills where there was a potential for impact.

Sharon Bender requested that notification be given of all spills. Mike Moroney to discuss with the MOE Spills Action Centre (SAC)

Mike indicated that the Ministry will be meeting with U.S. Agencies to review the notification protocol. Members are encouraged to express their concerns through their appropriate State/Provincial agency so that they can be considered.

A request was made to supply a copy of the notification protocol to BPAC when/if any changes/improvements are made.

5. RAP Progress Update

- ▶ Municipal Infrastructure - Gary Johnson provided a very brief update on infrastructure improvements and remaining issues in the City of Sarnia including upgrades to the Sewage Treatment Plant, status of Combined Sewer Overflows and Storm water.
- ▶ Contaminated Sediments - Bob Allen referred to a March letter to BPAC and recent media releases. Dow is working in consultation with the Ministry and Env. Canada to remediate sediments adjacent to their property on the St. Clair River where contaminant levels are elevated. Work is expected to be completed by the fall of 2002.
- ▶ Non-Point Sources - Darrell Randell indicated that recent efforts are focusing on completing the numerous projects outlined at the February BPAC meeting. He also referred to an upcoming announcement on lands acquired at Pigeon Marsh.

Fred Fuller indicated that the Bluewater Task Force has received a \$29k grant to control cattle access on the Pine River. A grant has also been received to prepare a watershed plan for Anchor Bay. It was pointed out that a private group was planning to re-develop waterfront lands in Port Huron. It was suggested that information should be supplied to this group to make them aware of environmentally friendly seawall protection options.

- ▶ Human Health Issues - Patty Troy requested that the list of volunteers be updated to ensure it is complete. Kris Lee, Ron Denning and Bela Trebics were added to the list. The group to arrange a conference call to discuss a possible workshop/conference. It was again suggested that the primary literature be the focus of any further discussion. The list of volunteers includes the above plus: John Jackson, Paulette Duhaime, Janice Littlefield, Archie Kerr, Patty Troy, Lambton Health Unit rep.

6. Committee Reports

! **Membership:** Bud West reported that one Citizen at large (U.S.) has resigned since the February meeting and two additional vacancies remain in the Education sector (Can./U.S.). No motions at this time (see attached Membership committee report).

! **Friends (Ont.):** The Board met on April 16th. Friends recently received \$15k from MOE for upgrading the web site and other activities (See attached report).

! **SPAC:** Sharon Bender attended the February 14th SPAC meeting. Subjects included a review of State delisting criteria in anticipation of the June EPA workshop. Sharon noted that EPA is soliciting comments on delisting criteria at www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/restore.html. EPA will be making available \$3500 for each Michigan PAC. Sharon outlined U.S. funding programs including the Mi. Great Lakes Protection Fund; NOAA grants; USEPA Great Lakes Air Deposition program; funds for assisting non-profits with internet access and building environmental health services capabilities. The Great Lakes United annual meeting is June 8-10 in Windsor.

7. Other items

- ▶ Janice Littlefield suggested that BPAC should support the use of Environmentally Friendly shoreline protection techniques as part of the Acheson project® and that BPAC should send a letter stating this.
- ▶ COA update - Public review of the draft agreement is scheduled for the summer with plans for a sign-off in September.
- ▶ RAP update report - Draft report delivered in April. Currently under review.

- ▶ Farmland Preservation Tour - Bob Weir reported on the tour aimed at maintaining farmland. The tour described initiatives including the transfer of rights for development of land to lands that are more suited to development to reduce the loss of prime farmland.
- ▶ Statewide water quality/quantity initiative - working with Detroit newspapers education office, targeting grades 6 - 12.
- ▶ Southeast Michigan water quality initiative - Lapeer and Delta Institute - information expected to be available this fall.
- ▶ Port Huron State Game Area cleanup - scheduled for this coming Saturday
- ▶ Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association Annual Meeting - June 7 in Sarnia - BPAC welcome to attend.

Moved by Rick Gallerno, 2nd by Darrell Randell to adjourn

8. Next meeting: September 27th, location TBD. Attempt to organize tour of Sarnia STP for beginning of meeting.