

St. Clair River
Binational Public Advisory Council
November 18, 1998 - 6:30 p.m.
H.G. MacLean Building, Sarnia Ontario
DRAFT meeting minutes

Attendees:

Frank Schoonover	Victoria Donohue
Clive Beckwith	Ken Smy
Paulette Duhaime	Bud West
Dean Barnett	Sharon Bender
Modris Zandbergs	John Jackson
Don Gunning	Darrell Randell
Bob Fleming	Kris Lee
Mike Gariepy	Daniel Collins
Janice Littlefield	Fred Kemp
Vicki Donohue	Bob Lalonde
Susan Shink	Tip Haagsma
Timothy Morse	

Staff/Guests:

Janet Planck	Roy Schrameck
Dan Ryan	Gary Johnson

1. The meeting was called to order by Bob Lalonde. All attendees introduced themselves
2. Agenda was approved with addition of the following items:
 - ▶ Update on meeting with WIFN
 - ▶ Funding from DEQ (\$10k)
 - ▶ Encroachment analysis study
 - ▶ Smith's Creek landfill discussion

- ▶ Nomination and election of SPAC representative
- 3. **Moved by Darrell Randell, seconded by Fred Kemp to accept minutes of the Sept. 29th, 1998 meeting. Carried**

4. Items carried forward from Sept. 29th meeting

- ▶ SPAC: Paulette Duhaime reported that DEQ was offering \$10k for PACs which must be applied for by Dec. 31st. Need to identify a responsible fiscal agent in Michigan that can receive the funds and has been audited within the past two years. Will pursue with Friends - Mi.
A legislative breakfast is scheduled for Feb. 3rd. Briefing will stress the need for continued funding beyond the Clean Michigan Initiative. RFPs for a soil erosion grant program are due by Jan. 15th. The contact is Lisa Rives (734-665-9135). Information is avail. at [http:// www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/](http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/)

A new SPAC delegate is required as of January.

- ▶ OPAC: John Jackson reported that funding exists for habitat remediation but not for cleanup of contaminants. The next OPAC will focus on toxics and cleanup. John indicated that many PACs indicate that the process has largely stalled in the absence of a paid RAP coordinator.
- ▶ IJC conference: Report to be tabled at next meeting.
- ▶ MOX fuel shipments: Tim Morse indicated that this area is no longer a travel option. Congressman Bonior spoke to the DOE secretary and had assurances that this area is no longer being considered.

Agreed: that BPAC keep informed on this issue through Kay Cumbow and/or Tim Morse.

5. Reporting

- ▶ BPAC Progress report
Written comments on the draft were provided by October 22nd. Changes were made by Michelle Nicolson in consultation with John Jackson. Main issues include:
 - ▶ Title "Cleanup" used vs. remediation (agreed to keep cleanup to avoid jargon);
 - ▶ Indicate report reflects data to Sept. 1997 but is being released in 1998.
 - ▶ Several editorial comments and improvements for accuracy were recorded and will be made.

Agreed to prepare a media release to make people aware of the good work BPAC is

doing and the results being achieved. Report should go to local media, local/county heads of government, schools (library) and local libraries. Vicky Donohue offered to prepare a draft, and provide to G. Johnson to circulate.

Motion: Moved by Fred Kemp, seconded by Dean Barnett to approve the report with the suggested changes. Carried unanimously.

Action: school/media/government distribution lists are to be provided to Gary.

- ▶ Sediment report
Overview document was distributed to sediment subcommittee. A meeting is scheduled for December 10th. Copies of the report were provided to BPAC.

6. Committee Reports

- ▶ Membership - Bud West provided a report on new members (attached).

Moved by Bud West, seconded by Sharon Bender to approve the membership recommendations by the committee. Carried

Moved by Bud West, seconded by Paulette Duhaime to approve the report of the membership subcommittee. Carried

- ▶ AFriends@ - Bud West provided a financial report and report on activities for friends (attached).

Moved by Bud West, seconded by Dean Barnett to accept the Friends report. Carried.

- ▶ Env. Awards Committee - Kris Lee reported on recent discussions.

Agreed that the application would go on a web site. Awards should be given in both Ontario and Michigan. Awards should coincide with U.S. equivalent of Environment Week.

- ▶ Other - Darrell Randell reported on the St. Clair Stewardship Initiative. Funding has been received and work is proceeding on NPS/habitat projects in the AOC.
- ▶ Meeting with Walpole Island - Gary Johnson described recent discussions with WIFN. There is a meeting scheduled in December to discuss an agreement between BPAC and WIFN to "recognize and respect" aboriginal rights. Such an agreement might be the mechanism necessary to permit more active involvement

in the RAP by WIFN.

Agreed that this is good news worth pursuing.

7. Other items

- ▶ Encroachment Analysis: Janet Planck indicated that a study is underway to address concerns that habitat projects involving artificial islands might affect flows and water levels. The study will evaluate the connecting channels to identify areas where there would likely be impacts and areas where there would be little impact. A meeting of the technical support group is scheduled for November 24th.
- ▶ Funding from MDEQ: Susan Shink, Sharon Bender, Fred Kemp, Paulette Duhaime and Gary Johnson are to arrange a conf. call in December to discuss preparation of the work plan and budget.
- ▶ Smith's Creek Landfill in Port Huron: Dan Ryan expressed concerns about possible leakage from the site and possible exposure of wildlife to contaminants at the site.

Agreed: to invite MDEQ representative to attend next meeting to discuss St. Clair County Landfills (status, monitoring, closure plans, leachate treatment etc.). Sharon to invite Dan and interested citizens to next meeting. A subsequent meeting in Ontario would deal with the status of landfills in Lambton County.

Moved by Sharon Bender, seconded by Dean Barnett that Paulette Duhaime remain as SPAC member. No other nominations. Carried

Moved by Paulette Duhaime, seconded by Dean Barnett that Sharon Bender be the SPAC alternate. No other nominations. Carried.

Agreed: That Dr. Robbin Hough be invited to attend the next or soon BPAC meeting.

Next meeting January 14, 1999 at the Port Huron Municipal Office complex, Council Chambers.