

ST. CLAIR RIVER BINATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL  
(BPAC)

Minutes - Draft  
Meeting 2017-1

Wednesday, March 15, 2017  
St. Clair County Administration Building Auditorium  
200 Grand River Avenue  
Port Huron, Michigan

ATTENDEES:

Donna Strang  
Paulette Duhaime  
Kirsten Lyons  
Marina Plain  
Fred Kemp

Kathy Watts  
Patty Troy  
Steve Demick  
Naomi Williams

Peter Westfall  
Kris Lee  
Melanie Foose  
Brian McDougall

REGRETS:

Archie Kerr  
Jim Clatworthy  
Lori Eschenburg

April White  
Sheri Faust  
John Jackson

Ted Briggs  
Theresa Warren

GUESTS:

Mark Burrows – International Joint Commission

**Call to Order and Introductions – P. Troy**

The meeting was called to order by Kris Lee at 6:33 pm.

**Adoption, Additions or Corrections of Draft Agenda – All**

The draft agenda was reviewed and additions or corrections were solicited from BPAC members.

**Moved by Kris Lee and seconded by Peter Westfall that the draft agenda be accepted with the following additions: 1) US Drinking Water Subcommittee Update by Paulette Duhaime after the 7 pm agenda item and 2) United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) funding changes and BPAC correspondence by Patty Troy under “Other Business”.**

***CARRIED***

**Approval of November 16, 2016 Draft Minutes and Actions – All**

Actions arising from the last meeting on November 16, 2016 were reviewed along with the draft minutes.

**Moved by Fred Kemp and seconded by Kathy Watts that the draft minutes of November 16, 2016 be accepted as prepared.**

***CARRIED***

**Election of Officers – F. Kemp and All**

The Chair asked the Fred Kemp facilitate the elections process. Fred Kemp called for nominations from the floor for the following six positions. He also advised that Terry Burrell, who was unable to attend the meeting would stand as Canadian Vice Co-Chair if nominated.

United States Co-Chair:

Patty Troy was nominated by Kris Lee. No other members were nominated. **Moved by Kris Lee and seconded by Peter Westfall that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

United States Vice Co-Chair:

Paulette Duhaime was nominated by Patty Troy. No other members were nominated. **Moved by Patty Troy and seconded by Kirsten Lyons that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

Canadian Co-Chair:

Kris Lee was nominated by Patty Troy. No other members were nominated. **Moved by Brian McDougall and seconded by Patty Troy that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

Canadian Vice Co-Chair:

Terry Burrell was nominated by Peter Westfall. No other members were nominated. **Moved by Brian McDougall and seconded by Paulette Duhaime that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC) Representatives:

Patty Troy and Paulette Duhaime were nominated by Kirsten Lyons. No other members were nominated. **Moved by Peter Westfall and seconded by Brian McDougall that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee (CRIC) Representative:

Kris Lee was nominated by Paulette Duhaime. No other members were nominated. **Moved by Patty Troy and Peter Westfall that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

**Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment – Status Assessment and Recommendation – MDEQ – M. Foose**

Melanie Foose presented to BPAC the Draft Removal Recommendation for the “Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat” Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) on the American side of the St. Clair River Area of Concern (AOC). The delisting criteria for this BUI focused on the implementation of ten habitat projects spanning 13 locations.

Melanie advised BPAC members that nine of the ten habitat projects had been completed along with post-restoration monitoring. The tenth project (Bunce Creek) was no longer included on

the list as the property experienced a change of hands. MDEQ continues, however to advocate for the implementation of this project.

The projects completed in support of the “Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat” BUI included:

- Port Huron North Shoreline
- Port Huron South Shoreline
- Blue Water River Walk and Blue Water River Walk Wetlands
- Marysville Living Shoreline
- Cuttle Creek
- Cottrellville Township Shoreline
- Marine City Drain Habitat Improvements
- Krispin Drain Restoration
- St. Clair River Spawning Reefs (Hart’s Light, Pointe aux Chenes and Middle Channel)

The majority of post-restoration monitoring has yielded positive results with a number of fish, reptiles and amphibian species returning to these locations. A number of “lessons learned” have also been identified and will be instrumental in the success of future habitat projects along the St. Clair River.

**Moved by Kris Lee and seconded by Kathy Watts that the recommendation to remove the “Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat” BUI from “Impaired” to “Not Impaired” be accepted on the American side of the St. Clair River AOC.**

**ACTION** - The draft removal recommendation will be updated and distributed to BPAC for final comment.

#### **US Drinking Water Subcommittee Update – P. Duhaime**

Paulette Duhaime updated BPAC members on recent activities by the US Drinking Water Subcommittee. A meeting of the subcommittee was last held on February 22, 2017.

- Approval of the draft delisting criteria for the “*Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems*” BUI is still pending from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).
- A number of documents have been reviewed by the subcommittee related to this BUI. Of interest have been those related to water quality monitoring at drinking water intakes along the St. Clair River.

**ACTION** – Paulette Duhaime will send Donna Strang the “Lake Huron to Lake Erie Real-time Drinking Water Protection Network – An Assessment of the Current Status and Recommendations for Reactivation” document. Donna will circulate to BPAC members.

- The subcommittee identified binational spill notification and communication as an area that still requires improvement.

BPAC members inquired about how much time typically between a spill reported to the Spills Action Centre (SAC) in Canada and notification to the Michigan State Police. Local American water users have raised concerns regarding when they are notified of an incident on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River.

**ACTION** – Kris Lee will contact the Spills Action Centre and request that a list be provided that identifies when notification of a spill or other incident on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River was received by the Michigan State Police. Dates requested include 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 up to April 1.

Kris Lee reported to BPAC that all direct dischargers on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River have responded to the survey distributed by the CRIC. Results from the survey will be incorporated into the draft “*Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems*” discussion paper that is currently being finalized.

**OMOECC, ECCC, MDEQ and USEPA Updates on Canadian and American Projects – T. Briggs, A. White, M. Foose and R. Ellison**

OMOECC Update:

Ted Briggs was unable to attend the meeting. No update was available.

ECCC Update:

April White was unable to attend the meeting. No update was available.

MDEQ Update:

Melanie Foose reported that the “*Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems*” BUI for the American side of the St. Clair River continues to be reviewed by the USEPA. Approval for the BUI removal is expected shortly.

USEPA Update:

Rose Ellison was unable to attend the meeting. No update was available.

**Committee Reports:**

Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC) – P. Troy and P. Duhaime

Patty Troy advised BPAC members that the next SPAC meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2017 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The meeting will be followed by the annual two-day AOC conference. The annual legislative briefing with local government officials will occur at the end of May, 2017.

Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) – Canada – D. Randell and T. Burrell

Darrell Randell and Terry Burrell were unable to attend the meeting. No update was available.

Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) – USA – S. Faust

Kirsten Lyons updated BPAC members on recent FOSCR (USA) activities on behalf of Sheri Faust who was unable to attend the meeting. The monthly speaker series continues. In January, Paulette Duhaime presented on the habitat projects completed on the St. Clair River. In March, Kris Lee and Donna Strang will present on Canadian FOSCR activities and governance. The annual bird blast was successfully held in February and upcoming events and presentations include:

- A presentation to Marysville City Council on April 10, 2017.
- Easter Egg Hunt and Shoreline Clean-up along the Bluewater River Walk on April 15, 2017.
- Kirsten Lyons will be presenting at the AOC conference being held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Paulette Duhaime and Patty Troy will be participating in “Free College Day” organized by St. Clair County Community College on March 25, 2017.

BPAC Membership Subcommittee – A. Kerr and F. Kemp

No new updates identified.

Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC) – TBD

Kris Lee advised BPAC that the last CRIC meeting was held on March 7, 2017. Major topics discussed included the draft “Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems” BUI discussion paper, the shoreline project along the Aamjiwnaang First Nation shoreline of the St. Clair River and a new post-2017 work plan and report of accomplishments.

Four Agency Managers Work Group – T. Briggs

The next Four Agency Managers Work Group meeting will be held via teleconference on April 9, 2017.

**Other Business:**

- Mark Burrows of the International Joint Commission (IJC) advised BPAC members that the IJC is holding public meetings throughout the Great Lakes region to receive public input on the Progress Report of the Parties released in January 2017. The public meetings will include the opportunity for local citizens to express their concerns and provide comments via an open-mic type session.
  - Input will be accepted until April 15<sup>th</sup>. Comments can also be submitted online at [participate.ijc.ca](http://participate.ijc.ca).
  - Kris Lee and Patty Troy will be providing comments on behalf of BPAC.
- Kathy Johnson of Gregory A.D. provided comments via email to Melanie Foose on the “Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat” BUI. Her concerns centered around the exclusion of “lessons learned” from unsuccessful habitat projects in the draft removal recommendation. She urged BPAC to include such information to ensure report completeness and accuracy.
- Patty Troy requested clarification from BPAC members on when she should submit letters or comments on behalf of BPAC as she has also provided comments as a private citizen. BPAC members advised that if the letter or comment is related to a BUI, than a letter prepared by Patty on behalf of the BPAC is appropriate. If the comment or letter is not related specifically to a BUI but rather another environmental topic than the letter should be send on behalf of Patty as a private citizen.
- Patty Troy advised that the MDEQ will release a draft Statewide *E.coli* Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) document in early spring for comment. In addition, the MDEQ has prepared a Michigan *E. coli* Pollution and Solution Mapper that is available online.

**ACTION** – Patty Troy will send the link to the MDEQ *E. coli* Pollution and Solution Mapper to Donna Strang who will circulate to BPAC members.
- Kirsten Lyons advised that on April 22, 2017, the Blue Water Sierra Club will host a bike ride along the St. Clair River from Marysville to Port Huron. In addition, the FOSCR (USA) have a human water chain planned for 6:45 pm that evening at the Blue Water River Walk. Lastly, the Port Huron Sturgeon Festival is planned for Saturday, June 3, 2017.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 24, 2017 in Sarnia, Ontario.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Paulette Duhaime and seconded by Fred Kemp that the meeting be adjourned.

***CARRIED***

The meeting was adjourned by Patty Troy at 9:12 pm.