<u>St. Clair River Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee (CRIC)</u> <u>Meeting Minutes</u> Draft

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 St. Clair Region Conservation Authority 205 Mill Pond Crescent, Strathroy

Participants:

Annette Verhagen
Courtney Jackson
Christine Rogers
April White
Ted Briggs

Darrell Randell Brian McDougall Dean Edwardson Mike Kelch Trevor Robak Jake Lozon Kris Lee Naomi Williams Kelly Johnson

Guests:

Girish Sankar – St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

Regrets:

Jenn Richards

Dave Richards

ITEMS:

Welcome and Introduction:

Ted Briggs chaired the meeting and welcomed committee members. Kelly Johnson was introduced as the new RAP Coordinator, replacing Donna Strang.

Review and Acceptance of the Agenda and Previous Minutes:

The draft agenda and minutes from the March 7, 2017 meeting were accepted as prepared.

Actions from the Meeting of March 7, 2017:

Action items from the previous meeting were discussed:

- Action: Donna Strang will circulate the draft open house summaries once reviewed by the OMOECC and ECCC. Next steps will be determined at the next CRIC meeting. Completed
- 2. Action: Dean Edwardson will forward the SLEA triad study to Donna Strang once completed. Donna will circulate to CRIC members.

On-going – Due to technical issues the triad study has not been circulated.

ACTION – Dean Edwardson will forward the SLEA triad study to Kelly Johnson and she will circulate to CRIC members.

3. Action: Donna Strang will contact the outstanding industries regarding the stats of the CRIC industrial survey.

Completed – CRIC was advised that all surveys have been returned by the participating industries.

ACTION – Survey results will be sent to Dean Edwardson for review before the results of the survey are included in the drinking water BUI report.

4. Action: Ted Briggs will obtain the procedure used by Spills Action Centre (SAC) to notify downstream water users of a spill.

Completed – This information has been obtained.

ACTION - Ted will send this information to Kelly Johnson for circulation to CRIC members.

5. Action: Ted Briggs will prepare a sample template for CRIC subcommittees to use when preparing their updates for the Accomplishments report.

Completed

6. Action: CRIC members will send Donna Strang any high-resolution photos that could be used in the Accomplishments report.

On-Going – In Donna's absence it is uncertain whether any photos have been received. **ACTION** – CRIC members are asked to forward high-resolution photos to Kelly Johnson to be used in the Accomplishments report.

7. Action: April White will provide Donna Strang with the Habitat presentation she recently delivered at the Lake Erie Millennium Network meeting. Donna will circulate to CRIC members. *Completed*

<u>Shoreline Restoration along the St. Clair River – Past, Present and Future Projects – Girish Sankar</u> (SCRCA):

Girish Sankar, Director of Water Sources for SCRCA, delivered a presentation focused on shoreline softening projects undertaken by the authority in the past and projects planned for the future. These projects are designed and constructed to meet a variety of local and regional needs. Each project is implemented with specific objectives which could include: shoreline stabilization, improved public access, habitat enhancement, safety and security, and improved recreation activities, to name a few. In the St. Clair River AOC, projects have been completed at Point Edward, Mission Park, Guthrie Park, and Cathcart Park. Future projects are planned for Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Courtright.

<u>Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems Draft Discussion Paper –</u> <u>Next Steps – April White, Ted Briggs:</u>

CRIC members are asked to review the draft discussion paper and provide comments. This is an opportunity for the CRIC to provide feedback which will determine next steps for the Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour BUI. Annette Verhagen suggested that CRIC could develop a report card style document in the future, once status of the BUI has been upgraded. This report card would indicate where improvements could continue to be made.

Kris Lee recommended including the Community Input paper results in the discussion paper. Kris also recommended that answers to questions derived from the Community Input paper be posted on the Friends of the St. Clair River website. It was noted that responses to individual questions were not promised at the Community Input meetings. Mike Kelch recommended that in the future follow up be provided to attendees who ask questions at public meetings.

ACTION – CRIC members will provide comments on the Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems draft discussion paper to Kelly Johnson by the end of June.

ACTION – Kelly Johnson will circulate industry survey questions and answers to CRIC members.

Status of Work Plan Deliverables – April White, Ted Briggs:

Ted Briggs and April White updated CRIC members on the status of the 2012-2017 work plan. Work plans are written based on the fiscal year, so this particular work plan was finished at the end of March 2017.

Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption:

• April White reported that there may be the need to complete additional muskrat sampling.

Fish Tumours and Other Deformities:

- April White reported that a draft report summarizing the liver analysis is in progress.
- A BUI status report was started in 2011 and could be updated to include the brown bullhead data.

Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations:

- The wildlife portions of this BUI are complete.
- Fish body burden data still being reviewed by ECCC.

Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- Five of the seven BUI criteria have been met, and the last two are well underway.
- Some of the criteria may need to be revised to ensure the criteria is measureable.
- Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) will be completing assessments on restored wetlands in the Mitchell's Bay area this summer.
- April White is currently working on developing a plan to have a video made which will showcase wetland restoration projects during the development stage within the AOC.
- The US has recently put forth this BUI for redesignation.

Post-2017 Work Plan and Accomplishments Report – April White, Ted Briggs:

The Accomplishments Report will be based on the 2012-2017 Work Plan. The report will be organized by BUI and will be written based on the fiscal year. Ted Briggs has developed a reporting template and has started writing the Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption section. Each subcommittee will be responsible for writing the summary for their respective BUIs. Ted suggested that 2-5 pages per BUI will be sufficient. This report will provide an overview of what we have already done and where we are going in the future. The report will direct the development of a new work plan post-2017 or will be used to update the 2012-2017 work plan. The Accomplishments Report should be completed by the end of September.

Updates:

<u>Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) – Darrell Randell:</u> Darrell Randell had to leave the CRIC meeting early. No report was available.

Rural Lambton Stewardship Network (RLSN) – Jake Lozon:

Jake Lozon updated CRIC members on recent activities undertaken by RLSN. RSLN is working on a 50acre project at Ontario Power Generation. They are also working with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to complete a naturalization project along the east side of Hwy. 40.

Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) – Kris Lee:

Kris Lee reported that there is a BPAC meeting tonight in Sarnia. Redesignation of the Beach Closings BUI is on the agenda.

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority – Brian McDougall:

Brian McDougall reported that spring activities are well underway at the Conservation Authority. There have been some issues with completing machine tree planting due to wet weather. Exact numbers on tree planting activities within the AOC were not available.

SCRCA is expecting provincial funding to support the Courtright shoreline project.

Aamjiwnaang First Nation – Courtney Jackson:

Courtney Jackson advised that Sharilyn Johnston has applied to the OMOECC Environmental Damages Fund to support the AFN shoreline project. Girish Sankar will be exploring further funding opportunities for this initiative.

Walpole Island First Nation – Naomi Williams:

Naomi Williams updated CRIC members on recent activities undertaken on Walpole Island.

- A culvert is being installed at Swan Lake to improve fish access to the site.
- They are waiting to hear back from the province on funding for a wastewater treatment plant feasibility study.
- Walpole Island Heritage Centre Committee supported the redesignation of the Restrictions on Dredging Activities BUI. This report will now go to Chief and Council for consideration.
- Naomi will provide the Heritage Centre Committee with the Bird and Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems BUI Status Report.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) – April White:

April White advised that Great Lakes Sustainability Fund applications have been received and RLSN's application is being recommended for approval.

Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (OMOECC) – Ted Briggs:

Ted Briggs reported that OMOECC has funding available for FOSCR outreach initiatives. Ted also asked that if anyone has additional project ideas they bring them forward as there may be funding available in the fall.

The Minister of the OMOECC has recently announced the creation of a Great Lakes virtual website. Details are still being determined.

<u>Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association (SLEA) – Dean Edwardson:</u> Dean Edwardson advised that there were no new updates to report.

<u>Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) – Trevor Robak:</u> Trevor Robak reported that the Growing Forward 2 program has been expanded and now has considerable opportunities for the greenhouse industry.

The Great Lakes Action Plan has been presented at public open houses. The public comment period closes today – May 24th.

<u>Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) – Jenn Richards:</u> Jenn Richards was unable to attend the meeting. No report was available.

<u>Lambton Public Health – Theresa Warren:</u> Theresa Warren was unable to attend the meeting. No report was available.

<u>City of Sarnia – Mike Kelch:</u>

Mike Kelch advised CRIC members that Sarnia's Director of Engineering, Andre Morin passed away on May 9, 2017.

The reopening of Centennial Park is being planned for June. Mike believes this is one of the largest brownfield recovery projects in the country and was carried out over 7 years. The boat launch reopening is currently unknown. Suncor is sponsoring the outdoor stage area with a \$250,000 donation.

Next Meeting and Adjournment:

The next CRIC meeting will be on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at the Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association, Sarnia.