

ST. CLAIR RIVER BINATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL  
(BPAC)

Minutes - FINAL  
Meeting 2019-1

Thursday, January 24, 2019  
ARLANXEO Canada Inc.  
1265 Vidal St. South  
Sarnia, Ontario

ATTENDEES:

Kelly Johnson  
Patty Troy  
Melanie Foose  
Terry Burrell  
Susan MacFarlane

Kathy Watts  
Kris Lee  
Marina Plain  
April White  
Naomi Williams

Paulette Duhaime  
Ted Briggs  
Theresa Warren  
Kirsten Lyons

GUESTS:

Chris Drope

REGRETS:

John Jackson  
Craig Griffiths  
Frank Frisk  
Donna Blue

Christine Loeffler  
Fred Kemp  
Judy Ogden

Archie Kerr  
Dan Collins  
Fred Fuller

**Call to Order and Introductions – K. Lee**

The meeting was called to order by Kris Lee.

Kris introduced Chris Drope from ARLANXEO and Susan MacFarlane, a new City of Sarnia representative on the BPAC.

**Orientation to ARLANXEO Facility – C. Drope**

Chris Drope welcomed BPAC members to the ARLANXEO facility and showed a brief orientation video.

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

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

**Moved by Patty Troy and seconded by Paulette Duhaime that the draft agenda be accepted with the following revision: 1) The presentation by ARLANXEO precede the Election of Officers.**

***CARRIED***

### **Approval of October 10, 2018 Draft Minutes and Actions – All**

The draft minutes from the last meeting on October 10, 2018 were reviewed. There were no actions from the October meeting.

- No corrections to be made to draft minutes.

**Moved by Kris Lee and seconded by Terry Burrell that the draft minutes of October 10, 2018 be accepted as prepared.**

***CARRIED***

### **Presentation by ARLANXEO – C. Drope**

Chris Drope of ARLANXEO made a presentation to the BPAC titled, “Risk Management at ARLANXEO Sarnia Site & How It Relates to Environmental Performance”.

ARLANXEO is a world-leading synthetic rubber company in the development, manufacturing and marketing of high-performance rubber. The company has 20 plants in nine countries and ~3,800 employees worldwide.

The ARLANXEO Sarnia site is spread over 500 acres with Butyl rubber and Olefins production facilities. Butyl rubber is used in the inner liner of tires, while the Olefins facility processes Canadian feedstocks. This plant employs ~350 employees and ~150 contractors in high-skill jobs. The Sarnia site came into existence in 1943 as a Crown corporation. The Sarnia site was designated as the first Responsible Care verified facility in the world in 1994. Over 90% of the facility’s production is exported to either the U.S. or Asia.

ARLANXEO’s general safety concept focuses on prevention and moves through to mitigation. The first focus their safety plan is safe design of their equipment and facility, and then moves through “Control and monitoring”, “Preventative safety systems”, “Mitigative safety systems”, “Plant Emergency Response”, and “External Emergency Response”. ARLANXEO uses risk assessment to determine the safety measures they implement. Risk is assessed using a matrix knowing that the causes of incidents have specific probabilities and the consequences have certain severities.

ARLANXEO responds to risk in a number of ways. One example is the use of Butyl Cooling Water Exchangers. The Butyl plant has numerous cooling water heat exchangers. With this equipment there is the potential for an exchanger leak. However, the Butyl was designed to be isolated from the river using a cooling tower system, eliminating the spill-to-river risk. There is also a lesser risk of an exchanger leak into the cooling tower system and possible air emissions. Measures used to reduce this risk include: 1) Installation of an analyzer with critical alarm on the cooling water system, 2) Cooling water blowdown sent to Biox for treatment, and 3) Exchanger bundles are inspected regularly.

Safety precautions are also taken around halogen unloading, and storage and processing. The Butyl plant uses bromine and chlorine to halogenate certain grades of rubber. Bromine and chlorine are toxic substances. There is the potential risk for bromine and chlorine to leak into the atmosphere. A number of measures are in place to reduce this risk, including: 1) Bromine and chlorine are unloaded, stored and processed in a specifically-designed building equipped with an exhaust system and caustic scrubber to capture and neutralize any leaker vapour or gas, 2) Liquid sump for secondary containment of bromine, 3) Safety control systems that include warning alarms, interlocks and leak detectors provide multiple layers of protection, 4) Pressure relief devices to handle any unexpected rise in pressure discharge to the scrubber, 5) Well trained operations personnel and emergency response team, and 6) Regular equipment inspection, testing and maintenance to ensure proper operation.

Chris finished off the presentation by discussing ARLANXEO’s safety record. The Sarnia site has had no Reportable Environmental Releases since the year 2000.

### **Election of Officers – K. Lyons and All**

The Chair asked that Kirsten Lyons facilitate the elections process. Kirsten Lyons called for nominations from the floor for the following four positions.

#### **United States Co-Chair:**

Patty Troy was nominated by Terry Burrell. No other members were nominated.

**Moved by Terry Burrell and seconded by Susan MacFarlane 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 Terry Burrell and seconded by Patty Troy that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

#### **Canadian Co-Chair:**

Kris Lee was nominated by Terry Burrell. No other members were nominated.

**Moved by Terry Burrell 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 Susan MacFarlane. No other members were nominated.

**Moved by Susan MacFarlane and seconded by Marina Plain that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

### **St. Clair River Sediment Management Project – T. Briggs**

Ted Briggs informed the BPAC that St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has received funding from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Dow Canada to undertake the engineering design phase of the St. Clair River contaminated sediment remediation. This funding is being provided to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority who will be the project lead in the development of the engineering design work. The engineering design and subsequent project plan will identify the work which needs to be done, how the work will be completed, and the cost associated with removing contaminated sediments. Outreach and communications plans are currently being developed and the project team will attend a future BPAC meeting to discuss the project in detail. Public information sessions are also being planned for the end of March/early April.

### **Fish Tumours or Other Deformities BUI Update – A. White**

April White reported that the draft Fish Tumours or Other Deformities BUI Status Assessment report is nearing completion. The BUI is current designated as Requires Further Assessment. Based on studies that have been conducted a Not Impaired status is being recommended. The studies will form the basis of the report as the results showed compelling evidence to support a Not Impaired status.

### **Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption BUI – M. Foose**

Fish were sampled in 2012 with an analysis report and fish advisories following in 2014. The report documenting the analysis and results of that sampling is attached to the minutes. In 2016, fish were again sampled (yellow perch and rock bass) and a short preliminary summary

has been provided regarding the analysis. This summary is attached to the minutes. Mercury in both 2012 and 2014 was slightly elevated compared to non-AOC reference sites Les Cheneaux Islands in Lake Huron and Little Bay de Noc in Lake Michigan. Sampling was attempted in 2018; however only yellow perch were collected. Rock bass collections were unsuccessful in 2018 in the St. Clair River. Les Cheneaux Islands collections were also unsuccessful in 2018. A request for additional sampling in 2019 has been submitted by Melanie.

#### **US Drinking Water Update – P. Troy and P. Duhaime**

The US Drinking Water subcommittee has been continuing to survey major dischargers along the St. Clair River to document preventions each organization has in place. Specific plans are required by law and the subcommittee is inquiring whether these are in place and when they were last updated. So far the subcommittee has received a good response from industry and found that spill prevention plans are in place and have been updated in the last couple years. The subcommittee is having a more difficult time gaining this information from wastewater treatment plants.

The drinking water monitoring project along the Huron-Erie corridor is continuing to progress. All monitoring equipment has now been installed. At the next BPAC meeting a representative from the project will be requested to provide a presentation and an update on the project. The next phase of the project will include making the data available to the public.

The subcommittee meets monthly via conference call.

#### **Canadian Drinking Water Update – A. White**

The Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems Discussion Paper has been completed. This document will form the basis of a BUI Status Assessment report recommending a Not Impaired status for the BUI. It is anticipated the Status Assessment will be drafted in 2019 and finalized in 2020.

#### **Updates from OMOECC, ECCC, Michigan OGL and USEPA – T. Briggs, A. White, M. Foose and R. Ellison**

##### **OMOECF Update:**

Ted Briggs informed the BPAC that the provincial government has currently provided no direction regarding Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) funding which has supported St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan coordination, outreach and education and shoreline enhancement work in the past. COA was identified in the government's Environmental Plan released in November 2018.

##### **ECCC Update:**

April White reported that Jon Gee, Manager of the Great Lakes Areas of Concern program is retiring at the end of March. Sandra Kok is acting in the position until September.

The most recent call for Great Lakes Protection Initiative funding closed in mid-January. Two applications were submitted for projects in the St. Clair River AOC. Successful applications will be announced in the coming months.

ECCC is currently work planning with scientific agencies for 2019-2020 projects. In the St. Clair River AOC work will be focused on supporting the Sediment Management project. Head and mouth monitoring on the river will also be continuing.

##### **Michigan OGL Update:**

Melanie Foose provided the following information from Michigan OGL:

- Two BUIs are left to re-designate on the US side of the St. Clair River – Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption and Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems.
- The State of the Great Lakes annual report was issued in December. It can be viewed at the following link:  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/ogl/2018\\_State\\_of\\_the\\_Great\\_Lakes\\_Report\\_Michigan\\_OGL\\_641072\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/ogl/2018_State_of_the_Great_Lakes_Report_Michigan_OGL_641072_7.pdf)
- Michigan's new Governor is Gretchen Whitmer.
- OGL continues to be part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). New Directors have been appointed for both the Michigan DNR and Department of Environmental Quality.
- OGL's Director, John Allen, has had his appointment extended to March 9, 2019.

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

The last SPAC meeting was held in November 2018. Paulette and Patty each attended one day of the two-day meeting. A number of topics were discussed, including the following:

- The emphasis in coming months will be on informing new legislators about Great Lakes and Area of Concern projects.
- The SPAC will continue to be funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) until the end of May. A request for GLRI proposals for future funding should be released soon.
- The group discussed an Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) document outlining the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in AOC work.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is looking at funding local groups. This may be a possibility for the Friends of the St. Clair River US.
- The Detroit River AOC presented a drone video highlighting restoration efforts in the AOC. The drone and operator are available for hire at \$500/day.
- The SPAC is hoping for their new bylaws to be approved at the next meeting (date to be announced).
- A number of events are on the 2019 calendar, including:
  - Healing Our Waters Coalition – Detroit, May 8-9
  - IJC Public Forum – Milwaukee, June 17-19
  - MSU and OGL Symposium – East Lansing, March 5
  - AOC Conference – Cleveland, September

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

The Friends Annual General Meeting was held on December 6, 2018 in Sarnia, Ontario. Craig Griffiths has taken over as chairperson of the FOSCR and Archie Kerr is the new vice-chairperson.

FOSCR are waiting to hear about COA funding for 2019-2020.

Work is well underway on re-developing the Friends website, which also hosts information for the AOC.

Friends of the St. Clair River – USA – K. Lyons

Kirsten Lyons informed the BPAC that the Friends US strategic plan has been completed and is now being implemented. The number one priority is hiring an Executive Director before the end of 2019. Friends have also retained the same River Network strategic planning consultant to create a fund development plan.

Friends have a number of events taking place in the coming months (flyers will be attached to BPAC Minutes email), including:

- Cookies & Conservation Conversations winter wildlife education series, 6 pm, St. Clair Co. Admin. Bldg. auditorium, free, all welcome
  - Wed. Jan. 30: Basic Insect Biology
  - Wed. Feb. 27: Ducks Unlimited
  - Wed. Mar. 27: March Madness
- Winter Bird Blast, Saturday, February 23, all day, Port Huron
- Monday and Thursday walks continue through the winter
- The Sturgeon Festival will be held Saturday, June 1, most likely at the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse in Port Huron

#### BPAC Membership Subcommittee – A. Kerr and F. Kemp

Susan MacFarlane has joined the BPAC as a representative for the City of Sarnia. Mike Kelch and Darrell Randell will no longer sit on the BPAC as they did not seek re-election on their respective councils. Craig Griffiths has resigned from the BPAC.

**ACTION** – Kris Lee requested that the Membership Subcommittee contact Terry Richardson to inquire whether he wishes to remain on the BPAC.

#### Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC) – K. Lee

The last CRIC meeting was held on November 22, 2018 at Aamjiwnaang First Nation. During this meeting April White presented the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI delisting criteria being recommended by the subcommittee. The Committee also discussed next steps for the Fish Tumours and Other Deformities BUI which was presented earlier in the BPAC meeting. The 2012 – 2017 Accomplishments Report is now in its final stages, and should be printed and available to the public by the end of March.

#### Four Agency Managers Work Group – A. White

The Four Agency Managers Work Group last met on October 31, 2018 at Walpole Island First Nation. After the meeting members of the work group were led by Rural Lambton Stewardship Network on a tour of two coastal wetland habitat restoration projects in the Mitchell's Bay area of the AOC.

A date has not yet been set for the next call.

#### Other Business:

##### **Canadian BUI Re-Designation Celebration – K. Johnson**

- In the coming months Kelly will begin the planning of a re-designation celebration on behalf of the CRIC. Once a budget is established Kelly will solicit ideas from the BPAC and request assistance with the event.

##### **IPAT Report – P. Troy**

- At the October BPAC meeting Patty requested an update on the IPAT Report. Patty requested that this be addressed at the next BPAC meeting on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River.

**ACTION** – Ted Briggs will address the IPAT Report at the next meeting on the Canadian side.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date will be April 4, 2019 in Port Huron, Michigan.

**Adjournment**

**Moved by Paulette Duhaime and seconded by Patty Troy that the meeting be adjourned.**

***CARRIED***