

ST. CLAIR RIVER BINATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL  
(BPAC)

Minutes - FINAL  
Meeting 2020-1

Thursday, January 23, 2020  
St. Clair County Administration Building (Auditorium)  
200 Grand River Avenue  
Port Huron, Michigan

**ATTENDEES:**

Donna Blue  
Patty Troy  
Melanie Foose  
Susan MacFarlane  
Lori Eschenburg

Kathy Watts  
Kris Lee  
Marina Plain  
Sheri Faust

Paulette Duhaime  
Archie Kerr  
Terry Burrell  
Kirsten Lyons

**REGRETS:**

April White  
Naomi Williams

Ted Briggs  
Fred Kemp

Frank Frisk  
Rose Ellison

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

The meeting was called to order by Patty Troy at 6:31 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 Archie Kerr and seconded by Sheri Faust that the draft agenda be accepted with the following items listed under “Other Business”:**

- **Great Lakes Protection Initiative Funding – K. Lee/S. Faust**
- **Blueways of St. Clair Update – L. Eschenburg**

***CARRIED***

**Approval of November 14, 2019 Draft Minutes and Actions – All**

The draft minutes from the last meeting on November 14, 2019 were reviewed.

**Moved by Terry Burrell and seconded by Archie Kerr that the draft minutes of November 14, 2019 be accepted as prepared.**

***CARRIED***

## **Election of Officers - All**

Kirsten Lyons facilitated 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 (seconded by Sheri Faust). No other members were nominated.

**Moved by Terry Burrell and seconded by Paulette Duhaime that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be accepted.**

***CARRIED***

### **Canadian Co-Chair**

Kris Lee was nominated by Patty Troy (seconded by Terry Burrell). No other members were nominated.

**Moved by Terry Burrell and seconded by Lori Eschenburg that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be accepted.**

***CARRIED***

### **United States Vice Co-Chair**

Paulette Duhaime was nominated by Patty Troy (seconded by Archie Kerr). 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***

### **Canadian Vice Co-Chair**

Terry Burrell was nominated by Archie Kerr (seconded by Susan MacFarlane). No other members were nominated.

**Moved by Patty Troy and seconded by Paulette Duhaime that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be accepted.**

***CARRIED***

**ACTION** – Donna Blue will investigate whether an official nomination is required for BPAC representation on the Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee (CRIC).

## **Lake St. Clair Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) – M. Waliczek**

McKenzi Waliczek, Coordinator for the Lake St. Clair Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) introduced BPAC members to the CISMA program and how the program addresses invasive species infestations and impacts throughout the state of Michigan.

CISMAs are partnerships of local organizations, agencies and businesses concerned about the problem of invasive species in their region. The purpose of CISMAs is to manage the dispersal and impacts of invasive species while also raising awareness and educating the public on how their spread can be prevented.

Organizations and individuals can become CISMA members. The free memberships allow members access to information and support in invasive species management including best

management practices, treatment assistance and species identification, among others. The Lake St. Clair CISMA organizes several educational events throughout the year and implements projects aimed at eradicating invasive species and preventing their dispersal.

Priorities in 2020 for the Lake St. Clair CISMA group include:

- 1) The early detection of a number of priority invasive species including phragmites, flowering rush, frogbit, swallow-worts and knotweeds,
- 2) Continuing education and outreach activities such as mobile boat washes, stewardship workdays, presentations and attendance at local events, and
- 3) Continued use of the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) App that allows both experts and citizen scientists to map invasive species in Michigan to better identify priority areas for treatment and preventative measures.

Questions, Comments and Discussion from BPAC Members:

- *Is there an application similar to the MISIN App that is available in Canada?*  
McKenzie was not aware of an application similar to MISIN that is available in Canada. She was aware of the Early Detection and Distribution (EDD) Mapping System that is commonly used by Canadian researchers.

### **Post-AOC Transitioning – P. Troy**

With the delisting of the St. Clair River as a Great Lakes AOC approaching (particularly on the US side of the river), the role of the BPAC and other committees and community groups are likely to change. Patty Troy advised that as part of the Public Advisory Council (PAC) Support Grant application to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, funding was requested to develop a St. Clair River AOC Post-Delisting Transition Plan. Patty solicited BPAC comments on how best to move forward in developing this plan.

Questions, Comment and Discussion from BPAC Members:

- The role of the Friends of the St. Clair River community groups will likely increase while the role of BPAC will likely decrease.
- Sheri Faust advised that the US FOSCR group has developed a strategic plan and recommended that a workshop be held with the Canadian FOSCR group and BPAC members to determine how the post-delisting transition will work.
  - BPAC members recommended that rather than holding a workshop, a transition team should be formed with interested BPAC and US and Canadian FOSCR members to develop a transition plan.

**ACTION** – Sheri Faust will forward the US FOSCR strategic plan to Donna Blue who will share with the Canadian FOSCR community group.

**ACTION** – BPAC members who are interested in becoming a part of the St. Clair River AOC Post-Delisting Transition Team will contact Sheri Faust.

**ACTION** – BPAC members who sit on the Canadian FOSCR community group will include the St. Clair River AOC Post-Delisting Transition Team as an agenda item at their March 10, 2020 meeting.

**Updates from OMECP, ECCC, Michigan EGLE and USEPA – T. Briggs, A. White, M. Foose and R. Ellison**

**OMECP Update:**

No update available

**ECCC Update:**

Donna Blue reported on ECCC activities on behalf of April White who was unable to attend the meeting.

- ECCC is soliciting proposal requests under the Great Lakes Protection Initiative (GLPI). This is an umbrella fund with 7 different funding streams that pertain to Great Lake priorities, one of which is to restore Areas of Concern. Proposals are submitted online and are due March 3, 2020. All prior recipients of the fund should have received an email along with links to the website. You can learn more about the funding availability by going to [www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca) and selecting the heading “Environment and Natural Resources”. Once there, select “Environmental Conservation and Protection” which includes funding opportunities. There are many options to access funding.
  - For the GLPI “Restoring Areas of Concern” stream, applicants are encouraged to review AOC workplans and build applications that will address remaining actions or advance the restoration of a Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs). Call April White to discuss potential projects.
  - ECCC will work with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to submit a proposal to continue funding a RAP Coordinator/Governance position.
- ECCC is working with the Province of Ontario to finalize a new Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) which is the Agreement that outlines the commitments by both levels of government for the next five years on the Annexes of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.
- Planning will begin shortly for the 5<sup>th</sup> St. Clair River AOC Science Symposium. BPAC members are invited to attend the event that will include a light dinner and presentations.

**Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Update:**

Melanie Foose reported that fish collection in support of the “Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption” BUI is on-going. She also reported that information on the real-time water quality monitoring conducted at drinking water intakes along the St. Clair River has been requested as part of the status assessment for the “Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour” BUI.

With regards to the PAC support grant applications currently being submitted to EGLE, she reminded BPAC members to list any anticipated international travel in their applications.

**USEPA Update:**

No update available.

**Committee Reports:**

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

Patty Troy reported that the next SPAC meetings will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in Lansing, Michigan. A business meeting will be held on March 26<sup>th</sup> and a legislative briefing will occur on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in attending these meetings are more than welcome to come.

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

Terry Burrell advised that the COA Agreement between MECP and FOSCR is currently in the final stages of approval. The Annual General Meeting was held on December 11<sup>th</sup> where FOSCR committed to participating in the Emergency Preparedness Day organized by SLEA on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The group is also interested in being involved with a family fishing derby that will be held during Sombra Days in July.

Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) – USA – K. Lyons

Sheri Faust advised BPAC members that a winter stonefly presentation is scheduled for February 24, 2020. Planning has also begun for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Sturgeon Festival being held on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, Sheri reported that FOSCR was the recipient of Amazon's wish list give-away initiative which saw the group receive over \$1000 worth of supplies listed on their Amazon wish list.

**ACTION** – Sheri Faust and Patty Troy will discuss the possibility of holding a St. Clair River AOC conference and report back to BPAC.

BPAC Membership Subcommittee – A. Kerr and F. Kemp

Archie Kerr reported that no activity has occurred with the BPAC Membership Subcommittee and recommended that this item be removed from future BPAC agendas.

**ACTION** – Archie Kerr will discuss with Fred Kemp, the disbanding of the BPAC Membership Subcommittee.

Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC) – K. Lee

A teleconference was held with CRIC members in December 2019 to finalize the 2017-2022 Work Plan for the St. Clair River AOC. The draft is currently being formatted.

Four Agency Managers Work Group – A. White

The next meeting of the Four Agency Managers Work Group is currently being planned.

**Other Business:**

- Great Lakes Protection Initiative Funding - Kris Lee advised that an email was received by Sheri Faust, inquiring about the status of numerous projects funded by the federal government.  
**ACTION** – Sheri Faust will forward the list of projects to Donna Blue, who will look into providing her with and update on the status of the projects.
- Blueways of St. Clair Update - Lori Eschenburg reported to BPAC that the Blueways of St. Clair is working with the National Audubon Society to develop a brochure and costal bird trail map along the St. Clair River to highlight the unique bird species and bird-watching opportunities along the river.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on March 12, 2020 on the Canadian side.

**Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.**