



Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC)

Final Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2020

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Attendees:

Sheri Faust (FOSCR- US)	Marilyn Gladu (MP Sarnia-Lambton)	Theresa Warren (Lambton Public Health)
Kristina Lee (Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Cleaner Habitat)	Ted Briggs (MECP)	Dan Collins (Citizen at Large),
Patty Troy	April White (ECCC)	Rose Ellison (US EPA)
Donna Blue (SCRCA)	Melanie Foose (EGLE)	Terry Burrell (Sarnia City Council)
John Jackson	Paulette Duhaime (Citizen at Large)	Natasha Pozega (St. Clair River RAP Coordinator)

Guests:

Shay Allred (CMU)	Candice Braddock (Enbridge)	Dennis Plain (AFN)
Dr. Daelyn Woolnough (CMU)	Doreen Kephart (FOSCR-US Board Member)	Norm Plain (AFN)

Regrets:

Vince Gagner	Peter Westfall	Susan MacFarlane
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1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting Called to order at 6:30pm.

Notice to committee that the meeting would be recorded to assist with minutes production as well as available to the public as requested.

Committee members asked to state their name before speaking.

Chair asking for opposition to motions only

ACTION- Members are asked to share any feedback on the structure of these virtual meetings with Natasha Pozega (npozega@scrca.on.ca).

2.0 Adoption, Additions or Corrections of Draft Agenda

MOTION to approve the Agenda as presented

Moved by Terry Burrell and seconded by Kris Lee

CARRIED

3.0 Approval of March 12, 2020 Minutes and Actions

Motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the BPAC on March 12, 2020 as presented.

Moved by Terry Burrell and seconded by Paulette Duhaime

CARRIED

4.0 Greetings from Member of Parliament, Sarnia-Lambton Marilyn Gladu

Marilyn joined this meeting to thank the committee for their great work in protecting the St. Clair River. She routinely reads the minutes from each of the BPAC meetings and is always interested in knowing how the federal government can better support the BPAC and St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan.

5.0 Enbridge St. Clair River Line 5 Replacement (presentation by Candice Braddock)

The Line 5 pipeline that crosses the St. Clair River from Sarnia, ON to Marysville, MI has been replaced. The former pipe runs across the river bed and has now been emptied and decommissioned by draining, cleaning, disconnecting it from service, and sealing the ends to prevent it from acting as a water conduit. The new pipe is housed inside of a tube and runs underground beneath the river. This project started in February 2020 and was finalized July 31, 2020. Employee training, emergency response training, increased pipe-wall thickness ($\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ "), 30" diameter pipe housed inside of a 32" diameter tube, and remotely operated valves monitored on both sides of the river are just some of the emergency prevention strategies in effect. A proposal has also been submitted to complete a similar project to move a pipeline laying on the lakebed at the straits of Mackinac to an underground tunnel to reduce spill risk due to weathering or anchor strike. This pipe will be large enough to drive a small vehicle through allowing workers to access and safely maintain the pipe.

A copy of the slide deck along with supporting documents provided by Enbridge can be found [HERE](#).

Comments and questions can be sent to Candice by email: candice.braddock@enbridge.com or by phone: (989) 225-4260.

6.0 St. Clair River Restoration Partner Awards

Each year, the FOSCR-US recognizes community partners for their contributions to the restoration of the St. Clair River. In past years, the awards ceremony has been held at a public event to publicly recognize the great work of the recipient organizations. However, this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a video was produced by FOSCR to be shared across social media platforms. 2020 Award recipients include Blue

Ways of St. Clair, St. Clair County Parks & Recreation Commission, Herpetological Resource & Management, and USGS Great Lakes Science Centre.

The video can be found on the FOSCR-US video channel at: <https://youtu.be/eatUi69prMg>

The FOSCR received letters from each of the recipient organizations thanking them for their awards.

7.0 Update Kathy Watts departure from BPAC.

Notice to the committee that Kathy Watts has left her position within the BPAC. A formal letter was sent from the committee to Kathy to thank her for her service.

8.0 St. Clair River AOC Video

Earlier this year, the SCRCA contracted Myra Spiller of Cranefly Productions to produce a video summarizing some of the habitat restoration work that has occurred within the St. Clair River AOC. The video was requested to be approximately 5 minutes in length and intended to be used at outreach events to introduce the AOC program. A discussion was held regarding the amount of video footage collected and other opportunities to use some of that footage to produce additional videos.

MOTION for the BPAC to send a letter to the FOSCR-CAN to consider funding the production of two 20-minute curriculum-based AOC videos to be shared with local elementary and high school students.

Moved by Kristina Lee and seconded by Paulette Duhaime.

Terry Burrell abstained from this motion.

CARRIED

ACTION- Patty and Kristina will draft a letter to the FOSCR-CAN from the BPAC requesting the consideration of funding to produce 2 x 20-minute AOC videos.

9.0 Updates from MECP, ECCC, Michigan EGLE, USEPA

9.1 Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (Ted Briggs)

- A small ministry reorganization happened this year. Great Lakes Advisors used to reside in regional offices, but as of April are now based out of the Great Lakes Office in Toronto (Great Lakes and Inland Waters branch). Physical staff relocations were not required despite reorganization. This will be more favourable as it will allow the MECP to lobby and renegotiate on the Canada-Ontario Agreement activities.
- COA funding has been presented to the SCRCA through to March 2022 to support AOC coordination.
- The MECP has launched the Great Lakes Local Action Fund. This fund offers up to \$50K for projects led by local groups to protect and restore coastal, shoreline and nearshore areas of the Great Lakes and the rivers and streams that flow into them. The application deadline is November 6, 2020 and a maximum of \$1.5M will be awarded. More information can be found at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/protecting-great-lakes#section-4>.
- No updates to the Drinking Water BUI Status Assessment Report. With the RAP coordinator role now filled, Natasha will begin moving this forward.

- MECP is in the process of updating sediment sampling results and will provide an update on the Sediment Management Project to BPAC once all of the sampling is complete. **ACTION**-- Ted to provide further update in Spring 2021.

9.2 Environment and Climate Change Canada (April White)

- Natasha Pozega has joined the team as the new St. Clair River RAP Coordinator. Thank-you to Donna Blue for all her work while the position was vacant.
- Applications for Great Lakes Protection Initiative (GLPI) have closed and final negotiations are being made with the funding recipients. Funding in the St. Clair River AOC has been awarded to:
 - Aamjiwnaang First Nation for 3 years of indigenous engagement with the BPAC and the CRIC and for BUI engagement and decision making.
 - Walpole Island First Nation for 3 years of indigenous engagement with the BPAC and the CRIC and for BUI engagement and decision making.
- Science workplan (3 year) has been completed with science partners such as Canadian Wildlife Service and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. For St. Clair River AOC, Fish and wildlife projects have all been completed.
- A statement of work has been signed with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) to support coordination of the RAP.
- A contract has been signed with SCRCA to update natural heritage information help support BUI 14- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration.
- Discussion held surrounding “Life after delisting” and what it looks like for the St. Clair AOC. A request will be made for Luca Cargnelli, Great Lakes Program Officer with ECCC, who is involved with the Lake Erie Lakewide Action and Management Plan, to give a presentation to the BPAC at an upcoming meeting.
- Suggestions made by some members to make arrangements for the recurring Science symposium to be held in a digital format for 2021 as Covid restrictions are expected to still be in place. Online symposiums have become quite popular and remain effective (I.e. Detroit River symposium).

9.3 Michigan EGLE (Melanie Foose)

- 2 BUIS remain impaired for the St. Clair AOC- USA:
 - Drinking Water BUI- currently on hold as they await further information to move draft forward.
 - Fish Consumption- Currently waiting on analysis of fish collections from Fall 2018 and Fall 2019.
- Next State Public Advisory Committee meeting to be held October 14, 2020 as a full, single-day virtual meeting with a break for lunch.
- BPAC Co-Chairs Patty and Paulette have been invited to discuss Phase 2 of the University of Michigan Project.
 - Team is looking for recommendations to be made from first two years of project.

9.4 US Environmental Protection Agency (Rose Ellison)

- No update

10.0 Committee Reports

10.1 Statewide Public Advisory Council (Patty Troy)

- Two virtual meetings have been held (March and July). Next virtual meeting to be held on October 14, 2020.
- At the July SPAC meeting, a presentation was made on the MyWaters reporting system.
- Lower Menominee AOC has been delisted.
- 2019 State of the Lakes Report now available at binational.net.
- Tentatively scheduling 2021 AOC conference in May.

10.2 Friends of the St. Clair River-Canada (Terry Burrell)

- 2020 Photo contest is wrapping up and winners will be announced at the end of October.
- FOSCR (Canada) website had been updated, but photos from past year's photo contests have not been uploaded.
- FOSCR-CAN has committed to donating a kayak to the Sombra Fishing Derby. The 2020 event was cancelled due to COVID-19. A new date for the event has not yet been released.

10.3 Friends of the St. Clair River- US (Sheri Faust)

- Sheri Faust has requested an article from the FOSCR- CAN to be shared on the FOSCR-US blog.
- Currently focused on engaging young professionals with paid work experience. They've hired their first science communications intern.
- FOSCR-US has decided not to renew the lease on their current office space in Marine City and will be moving to a new location.
- All of their programs have moved back into the field (i.e. fungal forest, tree planting events, etc.).
- Subscriptions to the FOSCR-US newsletters, etc. has increased in response to Covid.
- They are interested in developing some new outreach strategies. One idea is to create science-to-go kits for home learning. This might include macroinvertebrate investigations, or activities to learn about microplastics or sturgeon.
- There are currently a few vacancies on the FOSCR-US Board of Directors which they are trying to fill.
- 4-day Belle River Mussel relocation program has recently completed. Over 2000 native mussels were relocated.

10.4 Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (Kris Lee)

- The CRIC has not met in some time, but an upcoming meeting will be scheduled for the end of October.

10.5 Four Agency Managers Work Group

- Last meeting held in July
- Next meeting will be held in the fall
- No specific St. Clair updates.

11.0 Other Business

None

12.0 Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting date was proposed to be held early in the new year. A date will be selected at the Chair's discretion to accommodate the schedule of Sean Morrison, Sarnia District Manager of MECP, who has been asked to present at the upcoming meeting.

MOTION to adjourn.

Moved by Terry Burell and seconded by Paulette Duhaime.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.