

1. Greetings, introductions and opening remarks

Meeting Chair, Tom Henderson, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. He provided roundtable introductions and welcomed all in attendance. (*Meeting Attendance is attached in Appendix A*)

2. Approval of September 23, 2010 Meeting Agenda and Approval of June 21, 2010 Meeting Record

Consensus Approval of September 23, 2010 Agenda.

Review of action items: Natalie reported that the only item not completed was the letter of support regarding the closing of the Mississippi River and the invasive Asian Carp. Tom provided an overview of the Peche Island Day joint event.

Pearl Bradd motioned that the June 21st Meeting Record be adopted as presented; Seconded by Rick Coronado; Carried by consensus.

Public Advisory Council Updates

3. Provincially Significant Wetlands at the Airport

On September 17, 2010 some of the PAC members joined a bus tour organized by the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee. As part of the tour, Phil Roberts provided a guided description of the Airport woodlots (provincially-significant wetlands) to the group. Phil noted that with adequate funding sources restoration at the site could occur to join two of the woodlots. This topic was to be brought up at a City of Windsor Council meeting but was deferred by the Mayor. Natalie noted that there was a restoration plan written for those two woodlots (authored by ERCA staff) but she was unsure of the details of the plan and whether or not it could be released to the public.

ACTION: Natalie will follow-up with ERCA staff to request a copy of the restoration plan for the Airport Woodlots.

4. Update on Ojibway Shores Property

Phil was unable to stay for the duration of the meeting to report on this item. Tom explained that Phil left a document from the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario in response to a request made by the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee (letter written by Mr. DeVos) as well as two maps for the group to review. A map, taken from the WPA's website, noted that there was a plan to have shoreline features altered and the land area expanded into the existing river. Dave explained that a 1995 ERCA report by Dan Lebedyk, ERCA Biologist, noted part of this site as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). However, the area has not been designated as a Provincially Significant Wetland. The PAC is hoping to identify compensatory properties / areas to safeguard because of these 13 acres of paving. Tom noted that he contacted Dave Wake – who is retired – Dave referred the PAC to Joel Foster, Senior Environmental Planner. Mr. Foster will assist the PAC and keep them informed of the MTO's plans with respect to the Windsor-Essex Parkway development.

Tom noted that the PAC is hoping the City will change the zoning of Ojibway Shores from industrial to natural area. With respect to the letter written to WECEC from Mr. DeVos, Tom suggested that the PAC send their responses to him and he will compile them into a formal response to Mr. DeVos.

ACTION: Tom will contact Joel Foster of the MTO for follow-up on the Windsor-Essex Parkway mitigation as it relates to Ojibway Shores.

ACTION: Natalie will email the MTO response letter addressed to WECEC for the PAC's review.

ACTION: Natalie will organize a PAC Ojibway Shores Strategy meeting in October (after the election) to discuss and strategize for the Ojibway Shores protection.

ACTION: Natalie will invite the new Ward Councillor (Ward 2) to the next PAC Ojibway Shores meeting.

ACTION: Dave Munro will confirm that the ANSI designation by MNR for the property is up-to-date.

ACTION: Tom will compile response from the PAC (if any) with regards to the letter by Mr. DeVos to WECEC.

5. Detroit River International Crossing

This item was combined with Item 4 Ojibway Shores. Dave Munro is waiting for a response from Mr. Woodliffe, Biologist with the OMNR.

Education and Public Involvement Work Group Updates

6. Update on Outreach Projects

a) Bald Eagle Signage:

Natalie reported that the signs were produced (paid) and stored in her office. There were five ordered in total. One sign was already delivered to the Director of Parks and Rec for the Town of Amherstburg to be installed in Toddy Jones Park near the splash pad. Bill Roesel (City of Windsor) has agreed to install one on Peche Island. The Committee discussed having one installed on Fighting Island but BASF doesn't want to draw attention to the nest. Another may be installed at the LaSalle Riverdance site (once the park is completed or possible at Petite Côte Conservation Area or Windsor mainland (e.g., Shanfield Shores). *Natalie will keep this item on the recurring project list in order to update the group on the sign installation.*

b) Peche Island Brochure:

The Peche Island brochure was completed (designed, printed) in time for this year's Peche Island Day event. The brochure is great for a self-guided tour. *This project will be removed from our list of recurring project updates.*

c) Drinking Water Project:

Natalie reported on behalf of the sub-group but requested that members "jump in" at any time to provide additional details. The sub-group met throughout the summer to work on the outreach projects. Several items have been completed including: ordering/distributing stainless steel DRCC water bottles, temporary tattoos for children, and a 'Do you know your H2O' trivia board. All items have been very popular with adults and children. The group has hired the Citizens Environment Alliance to develop a brochure and magnets about drinking tap water. The group is considering a movie screening of the documentary "Tapped" this fall. A pre-screening was scheduled to take place on October 20th at the Windsor Airport Conference Room. RSVP to Natalie to attend the pre-screening of 'Tapped'. To date, WECEC and City of Windsor have shown interest in supporting a movie screening. Derek added that the

CEA completed a draft handout for the drinking water sub-group to review. The magnets will be developed next.

d) Video contest:

Natalie reported that the sub-group also met during the summer months to complete the project. They have put together 'ACTION! Detroit River Student Video Contest' which is set to officially begin on October 1st. As part of the project, a poster was designed and an application package was developed with plenty of details. Natalie circulated a copy of the poster and the application package for review. On behalf of the sub-group, Natalie approached the school boards (public and catholic) and gained support for the project. The packages and posters will be delivered to the school boards next week to be distributed to all secondary schools in Essex County. Video submission ends on March 25th 2011 at which point the group will select the top ten videos to be put to an online vote. For more information, visit www.detroitriver.ca/video.

e) Turkey Creek Native Plant Demonstration Garden:

Caroline, Natalie, and the Friends of Turkey Creek organized a celebration of the garden during its height of blooming. A temporary sign was brought to the meeting for the group to see. Permanent signage will be installed at a future date (to be determined). Caroline gave a garden tour and Marcia Valiante spoke on behalf of the DRCC. Natalie noted that it was a successful event overall. Caroline reported that the Friends of Turkey Creek are continuing their work on the garden site with plans to add paths, large rocks for rest areas, basking butterflies, gazebo, arbour, etc. *Even though the DRCC's part of this project is completed for now, it will remain on the list for general updates.*

f) Watershed Tour Brochures:

The watershed tour brochures (based on past CEA tours) are designed and printed thanks to DRCC funding. Some have already been distributed. The DRCC and the CEA each have one thousand copies of each brochure for distribution. Natalie thanked Derek and the CEA for their design work. Derek noted that the brochures will also be distributed at the Windsor location Tourism Ontario office. *This project will be removed from our list of recurring project updates.*

g) Tree Plantings :

Caroline reported that she is planning for fall plantings using DRCC funding at: King Edward Elementary, L'Envolée, St. Anne Elementary, ABC Nursery, Monseigneur Augustin Caron, and Gesstwood Camp. Caroline reported that approx. 175 trees will be planted – all large stock. Tom asked if there was any progress on the Mickey Renaud Memorial Forest as the Little River watershed still has tree planting funding from the DRCC. No report on the Memorial Forest.

ACTION: Ian Naisbitt will follow-up with Bill Roesel and report back on the status of the potential Mickey Renaud Memorial Forest planting at the WFCU Centre Arena.

7. 2011-2012 Work Planning

Natalie reported that the group needs to make some decisions regarding 2010-2011 funding. She distributed a cost breakdown sheet using information from the 2010-2015 work plan for the group to discuss. The following is a list of the projects the Work Group wants to support:

• Detroit River sub-watershed tree plantings	\$3,000
• Little River sub-watershed tree plantings	\$4,000
• Turkey Creek sub-watershed tree plantings	\$4,000
• Canard River sub-watershed tree plantings	\$4,000
• Support for Fishes of Essex County book	\$500
• E-newsletter	\$370
• Website hosting	\$550
• DRCC handout/brochure	\$1,200 (design and printing)
• Cleanup supplies (waders, BBQ [shared cost])	\$500
• Annual Report 2010-2011	\$2,000 (design and printing)
• Small I.D. signs for native garden	\$1,000
• Small sign for GLIER native garden	\$880
• Calendar contest for kids	\$1,000 (design, printing and prizes)
• DRCC/CEA Detroit River boat tour	\$5,000 (subsidize cost of tour)
• DRCC section in EnviroTips (Windsor-Essex)	\$12,000 (printing and mailing contribution)
TOTAL FUNDING:	\$40,000
TOTAL COSTS:	\$40,000

Brief Description of 2010-2011 Projects:

1) Tree plantings (\$15K EC Funding):

This supports community/school native plantings (trees, shrubs, or native plants) in the Detroit River watersheds (Canard River, Turkey Creek and Little River). A portion (\$3,000) is also allocated to locations in the Detroit River drainage zone (a part of Windsor and Amherstburg).

2) E-newsletter and Website hosting:

To support the annual costs of the popular monthly e-newsletter (through Constant Contact) and the maintenance of the DRCC's website (by E-liquid Media). The newsletter includes information about completed and/or ongoing Detroit River projects and events, facts about the AOC, and other related information for the public. Currently, there are over 850 subscribers to the DRCC newsletter. The website is necessary for hosting important DRCC/RAP/AOC information for the public. We also post meeting dates, locations, and meeting records for the public.

3) DRCC General Brochure or Handout:

The DRCC has many project-specific brochures but nothing to handout that is only about the partnership. Thus, the DRCC will produce (develop text, design, print) a brief information brochure (or postcard) about the DRCC to handout to the public at events. The handout should explain (in plain English) what the DRCC is, who is involved, a general overview of some of the projects for the RAP, and our contact information.

4) Cleanup supplies:

The DRCC conducts community cleanups in partnership with the ERCA Friends of Watersheds group and the Little River Enhancement Group (of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club). Chest waders and other supplies (gloves, bags, etc.) were purchased a number of years ago and are starting to get damaged. We are also in need of some different sizes of chest waders to accommodate the volunteers. After cleanups, the DRCC provides refreshments to thank volunteers for their help. The DRCC will purchase three new pairs of chest waders and share

the cost of purchasing (with the ERCA Friends of Watersheds) a small, portable propane barbecue to take to cleanup (and tree planting sites).

5) Annual Report 2010-2011:

Produce (design and print) the 2010-2011 annual report that summarizes all of the RAP activities between March 2010 and April 2011.

6) Native plant identification signs:

In 2008-2009, the DRCC helped fund the creation of a Native Plant Demonstration Garden adjacent to the Turkey Creek in LaSalle, Ontario. We also supported the production of an interpretive sign. The garden continues to receive attention and praise by the community. Several people have noted that it would be helpful to label the native plants in the garden so that passers-by could take note of the species they prefer. The DRCC will support the cost of purchasing some small plant identification signs to place in the garden.

7) GLIER Native Plant Garden Sign:

In 2010, the DRCC funded a native plant garden in front of the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research. The garden is ideally located in front of the building, immediately adjacent to a busy (auto and pedestrian traffic) road, and next to the Detroit River. The DRCC will provide some funding to produce one or two small signs (depending on the cost) that indicate that the garden contains native plants, that it was planted and maintained by staff at GLIER, and acknowledge funding sources.

8) Calendar contest for kids:

Request that elementary school kids submit drawings related to the Detroit River or its ecology during different seasons. They could draw animals/fish in the region, activities they like to do in the area at different times of the year, things they think could help improve the environment. We will compile the drawings and choose the best 12 for a prize and inclusion in a DRCC calendar (to giveaway). The inside of the calendar should provide a brief description of the DRCC/AOC/RAP and explain the project.

9) DRCC/CEA joint Detroit River Boat Tour:

In the spring 2011, the DRCC will host a joint boat tour with the Citizens Environment Alliance. The CEA will follow the model from its past boat tours. The event will be held on a Saturday afternoon. The cost will help subsidize the cost of the boat rental and catering (if necessary). A small fee will be required to attend the tour. The CEA should agree to acknowledge the DRCC in its media releases and advertisement of the event. We hope that the tour will highlight some of the projects that have occurred on the Detroit River since the inception of the DRCC.

10) EnviroTips:

The Essex Solid Waste Authority normally mails out an EnviroTips newsletter to households in Windsor and Essex County (163,000 copies) in the spring and fall. Due to recent budget cuts, they have had to stop sending a fall newsletter. The EWSWA recently approached the City of Windsor and the DRCC to request partnering on a fall 2011 EnviroTips that focus on air, water, waste/recycling). The newsletter is a 6-page fold out bulletin received by mail. The DRCC's Education and Public Involvement Work Group decided to partner on this project because it is an excellent way to reach numerous residents. The DRCC will develop the text and provide the images for the newsletter. The EWSWA will compile the information and distribute the newsletters. The cost for printing is \$19,145 and for mailing \$16,585 (grand total of \$35,730). The DRCC will fund \$12,000 (as a 1/3 contribution).

ACTION: Natalie will confirm the partnership with Cathie Griffin (EWSWA) and Karina Richters (City of Windsor). She will also ask Cathie if the DRCC can have additional copies as a handout.

Potential Future Projects:

- 1) Elizabeth Munn, Friends of Canard River, reported on an upcoming Canard River shoreline restoration/education project which is in early development. The Friends are going to create a model site for shoreline restoration on the Canard River (in front of St. Joseph's Church) in River Canard. A concept plan was developed by Nativescapes : Native Landscapes and Ecological Solutions). The group would now like to consult with other groups and scientists on the project. Elizabeth noted that due to the site's visibility on the River it would make an excellent public education projects. They expect the cost to be approximately \$80,000; therefore, partnerships will be required to help implement the project. Natalie recommended that Elizabeth or another member of the group speak with members of the Habitat Work Group for further advice. She also noted that funding agency representatives are members of the Work Group and could help "springboard" for funding connections. Elizabeth and Natalie agreed on a need for pre- and post-monitoring at the site to determine its success. The Friends hope to implement in 2012-2013.

8. Update on Draft Stage 2

Natalie provided an update on the Detroit River Canadian Stage 2 RAP Report. The cover and summary brochure were developed and designed. The report was sent to the COA Annex Implementation Committee Co-leads in June 2010. As of September, the document had not been forwarded to the COA Management Committee but she had been assured that it would. She noted that once the COA Management Committee approved the document it would be forwarded to the IJC for review. At the time of the meeting, Natalie did not know the date for its official final release—she hoped it would be in 2010. Ian offered that the PAC could write a letter and add pressure, if necessary. Derek explained that since the document is not a formal bi-national Stage 2 Report that it wouldn't need to be reviewed by the IJC. Diane commented that the review by the COA Management Committee is necessary. She mentioned that perhaps the Management Committee could have a conference call instead of waiting for their meeting in November. She management review is needed. Perhaps they can have a conference call and not wait until the meeting in November.

9. Other Business

- Little River Cleanup/Yellow Fish Road event at Hawthorne Crescent in Windsor on September 25, 2010 (9:30 am). Volunteers can park at Canadian Tire, behind the building.
- Al Stephens noted that his DRCC water bottle paint is chipping from excessive use. He noted that the committee may wish to re-consider ordering the bottles in the future. To date, no one else mentioned this defect.

Rick noted the article by Gord Miller, Environment Commission of Ontario, in the Windsor Star about the declining health of the Great Lakes. Lakes are deteriorating because large homes, etc. are built on the near water without proper sewage treatment. He requested that the PAC invite Dr. Doug Haffner to an upcoming meeting to speak on this topic. Derek encouraged everyone to read the Commissioner's Report: <http://www.eco.on.ca/eng/index.php/pubs/eco-publications/2009-10-annual-report.php>.

ACTION: Natalie will ask Dr. Haffner if he is available to speak to the PAC on water policy and other issues that were discussed in the article.

- Derek showed a brochure available from the Ontario Clean Air Alliance on coal power and pollution resulting. They are calling to put them on emergency standby only.
- Derek reported that on CEA upcoming events:
 - October 9th: a film showing downtown at the Windsor worker action centre on Pellissier Street. Oil Sands and Cuban Oil Crisis. For more information visit the CEA's website: <http://www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org/>
 - October 10th: The CEA is putting their garden to winter rest. Information is available on the website beginning next week (see link above).
- Essex County Field Naturalists' Annual Fundraising Dinner on November 6th – tickets are \$30. Ian noted that this year's dinner will be at the Fogolar Furlan Club with Dr. Lynda Corkum as the guest speaker.
- David Suzuki will be in Windsor to officially open the school in his name on September. Ian is in the process of working with the school for a tree planting.
- Elizabeth noted that the Friends of Canard River's Annual Fundraising Dinner will be held on November 6th at the Knight's of Columbus on Malden Road. The guest speaker for this year's dinner is Nancy Panchesan, Friend of Ojibway. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by contacting Caroline Biribauer at 519-776-5209, ext. 245.
- Diane de Beaumont reported that Environment Canada's Public Involvement Unit has hired a second staff person for the first time in two years. This will allow for her increased involvement in our group.
- Caroline Biribauer reported that ERCA's Strategic Plan process is underway.
- Tom asked about GLWQA negotiations – Diane noted that last she heard they were doing public consultations. The next step is to be determined. The Canadian negotiators are trying to get the attention of the U.S. – they met with EPA in August, but not with the different states involved.
- Tom noted that 8 Great Lakes Governors agreed that there should be no water diversions from the Great Lakes.
- Derek noted that the Provincial Policy Statement is undergoing a mandatory 5 year review right now. The deadline for public comments to be submitted to Municipal Affairs and Housing is October 29th.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting is planned take place at the Windsor Airport at the Call of the Chairs.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:43pm.

*Meeting record was prepared by Kris Ives, Assistant, and Natalie Green, RAP Coordinator
Approved by the PAC Chair: Tom Henderson*

Appendix A
Meeting Attendance
EPI / PAC Meeting – Thursday, September 23, 2010

Tom Henderson	PAC - Chair
Caroline Biribauer	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Pearl Bradd	Little River Enhancement Group
Derek Coronado	Citizens Environment Alliance
Rick Coronado	Windsor and District Labour Council
Diane de Beaumont	Environment Canada
Elizabeth Munn	Friends of Canard River
David Munro	PAC Member
Ian Naisbitt	Little River Enhancement Group
Phil Roberts	Essex County Field Naturalists' Club
Al Stephens	PAC Member
Pete Thomas	CAW Local 200

Resource:

Natalie Green	RAP Coordinator
Kris Ives	Assistant

Regrets:

Marcia Valiante	EPI Work Group - Chair
Gord Harding	PAC - Vice Chair
Karina Richters	City of Windsor
Chris Vilag	CAW Local 200
Mike Walsh	PAC Member
Andrew Dowie	City of Windsor

