

MEETING RECORD

DRCC Steering and Implementation Committee

Thursday, December 5, 2013 – 12:30 am to 4 pm
Essex Civic Centre, 360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, ON

1. Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda

Jon Gee, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:42pm. Roundtable introductions were held. The agenda was reviewed and Jon noted that if there was time a presentation on the Assessment of the Degradation of Aesthetics would be given. Agenda approved by Consensus.

2. Review of Action Items and past Meeting Record

The June 19, 2013 Meeting Record was reviewed and accepted by consensus (no changes). The group reviewed past action items. Natalie reported that all June action items were completed. *All items that were completed will be removed from the June 19 list while others carry over into the next meeting for a status update.*

Past Action Item	STATUS as of Dec. 5
Natalie will continue to work with her U.S. colleagues to plan a re-designation event for the Fish Tainting BUI in the Spring 2013. <i>Natalie reported that event is being planned for April 30, 2014 on Fighting Island.</i>	In progress
Natalie will look into what agencies issue permits for dredging in the Detroit River, specifically Federal waters, and will follow-up with the group. <i>Peter confirmed that Transport Canada would be the lead and hasn't dredged since 1980s. Mike added that the DFO website provides additional information about dredging.</i>	DONE
Natalie and Peter to work together on drafting an Assessment for the Dredging BUI.	Not done.
DRDIS: Natalie will contact the Executive Director at the Centre for Smart Community Innovation to confirm their availability to conduct technical upgrades to the DRDIS.	DONE
DRDIS: Natalie will add the technical assistance and cost of \$5,000 to the 2014-2015 work plan, when it is developed.	Not done

3. DRCC Framework and Terms of Reference Review/Discussion

Natalie reminded the group that the DRCC's Framework and Terms of Reference document was revised and adopted in 2010. The document states that a review of the structure should be conducted every 5 years and since that review takes time, she asked that the group discuss any concerns, improvements/changes that could be made and whether or not the meetings were useful to stakeholders.

4. Detroit River (2013-2014) Project Updates

Natalie explained that there are several projects funded through the RAP currently underway (based on Work Plan approved by SIC in February 2013). A brief update on those projects in receipt of a GLSF grant (or other RAP-related funding grant) was provided by each respective organization. A copy of the update is provided in Appendix 2. Below is a list of presenters:

- Peter Berry (WPA) – Lafarge Shoreline Fish Habitat Restoration
- John Henderson (ERCA) – Fighting Island Fish Spawning Reef Expansion
- Kevin Money (ERCA) – Rural NPS Pollution Reduction Program & Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Implementation
- Ken Drouillard (GLIER) – Benthos-Sediment Hazard Assessment Model
- Paul Drca (City of Windsor) – Optimization of the CSO Retention Treatment Basin

Discussion:

- After Doug: contaminated sediments are always a big issue for the public. How can we best communicate this info to the public? We can draw the link bw the contaminated sediments and the fish consumption advisories (Jon). Is there a need to remediate the red dots? Remove the sediment? Ken: The most stringent advisories were driven largely by sediment contamination, but the only real areas in the river that were ‘hot’ enough, were on the US side. Natalie noted that US EPA is moving forward with getting sediment remediation at Trenton Channel. Ken: The US side has taken some of our results to guide some of their remediation processes. Doug: Fish swim. We can have some signage put up that say go ahead and eat these fish from the river (Jon noted that Toronto Harbour RAP did this with signage) Natalie said they did that on the US side of the river too – colour coding ‘zones’. “What can I catch here? Can I eat them?” Doug – a great achievement to say ‘Please, fish here!’ quells the public’s fear and encourages them to use and conserve the resource. Get people reinvested in the river and away from their fears.

5. Presentation, discussion and finalization of Draft Delisting Plan

Natalie provided a background on the draft delisting plan and a presentation.

Discussion:

- Doug: our goal is to ensure the recovery of the beneficial use criteria – just saying that it’s not what it was 50 years ago isn’t strong enough evidence. Jon suggested that the dilemma now is emerging chemicals that weren’t an issue when the AOCs were first identified and yet our actions are supposed to be based on the delisting criteria that we have. Therefore, PCPs / endocrine disrupters, emerging chemicals of concern don’t fall under our work criteria. So, if we aren’t achieving our targets, then ask ourselves why? If there something we can do about it, we probably should. If not, we will just plan to move on as far as we have achieved.
- The SIC agreed that the document is useful. Natalie suggested some additional word-smithing in terms of long term projects and water quality improvement requirements. There was discussion regarding the potential funding requirements to implement this five year plan. Natalie said that the real dollars will come with the habitat projects; Rich suggested \$100 - \$150K per year as a ballpark estimate. Doug anticipates costs will continue as they have for the next five years.
- It was noted that a key part of the delisting strategy should be the conditioning of the public. A section should be added that says we are developing a work group for this. It was

noted that our fish consumption advisories are backed up by a model (where other RAPs aren't). Is there opportunity to look at the model and its applicability in other AOCs? Jon said that it is on the agenda. Rich said that, in regards to dredging, it's the only action we have is to wait for guidance for from COA. We can't assess it because nobody is dredging. Therefore, no disposal because no dredging. Can we rely on Ken's hazard model to address this?

ACTION: Ask Ken if we can use his model to address the dredging BUI

ACTION: Please email any suggested changes to the delisting document to Natalie between now and the New Year. Natalie is presenting the delisting document to the PAC on Monday and will give them the same timeline.

6. Public Advisory Council Update

Tom provided an update on the PAC . WPA meeting with PAC on June 24th regarding Ojibway Shores. On July 3rd the Port Authority held an open house and there was significant public outcry. A full environmental inventory on the property is being allowed. Tom will keep the group posted on the PAC's progress. Jeff Watson is talking to the Minister of Transport about the issue and he will have a report for us in January.

The Windsor Essex Mobility Group – the group building the Windsor Essex Parkway – made a presentation at the Macedonia Centre. There will be 15 hectares of compensation land to make up for the 5 hectares of PSW that they paved over in the construction of the roadway. This results in over 40 hectares of naturalized areas. They will take the PAC and other local environmental groups on a tour.

At the end of May, 8 acres of trees were planted at the Windsor Air Port; there was an 80% + success rate for that planting.

The next PAC meeting is on Monday, December 9th at the Windsor Airport.

7. Other Business

8. Closing Remarks

- a. **Next Meeting: January/February 2014 (conference call)** Special meeting for the Aesthetics Assessment and early thoughts on TOR Delisting Strategy communications working group. January – 23rd or 30th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.

APPENDIX 1

Attendance

Jon Gee	Environment Canada, Co-Chair
Michael Moroney	Ministry of the Environment, Co-Chair
Kevin Miller	Town of LaSalle
Tom Henderson	PAC
Rich Drouin	Ministry of Natural Resources, Chair
Sandra Kok	Environment Canada, Vice-Chair
Peter Berry	Windsor Port Authority
Paul Drca	City of Windsor
Dave Munro	PAC
Ted Briggs	Ministry of the Environment
Doug Haffner	GLIER
Ken Drouillard	GLIER
Natalie Green	RAP Coordinator
Kris Ives	RAP Assistant