

DRAFT MEETING RECORD

DRCC Education and Public Involvement Work Group

Detroit River Canadian Public Advisory Council

Monday, April 8, 2012 – 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Airport Conference Room, Windsor, ON

1. Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda

Tom welcomed the group and commenced the meeting at 4:40 pm. Roundtable introductions and a special welcome to the U.S. PAC Chair, Mary Bohling. Tom requested that the addition of “Ojibway Shores” be added to the PAC section of the agenda. **A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Gord Harding, seconded by Pearl Bradd. Carried.** Meeting attendance is provided in Appendix 1.

2. Approval of December 2012 Meeting Record and Review of Action Items

The group reviewed the December 10, 2012 meeting record. Natalie noted that all actions were completed or in progress with the exception of Action #2 on Page 1 (she didn’t know its status). Phil suggested revising the wording of the action item to “Phil will advise Councillor Percy Hatfield that, historically, the 120 m PSW buffer in Essex County has been challenged”.

3. Guest: Kathryn Arthur (ERCA) – Discuss upcoming planting at Windsor Airport

Tom welcomed Kathryn Arthur, Management Biologist at the Essex Region Conservation Authority, to the meeting and thanked her for agreeing to present to the group. Kathryn provided an overview of the spring 2013 planting plans for beginning to connect the Windsor Airport PSWs (Woodlots). A letter of approval for planting 8.5 acres at the site was provided by Mario Sonego, City of Windsor, to Ian Naisbitt (Lil’REG/PAC) in March 2013. Kathryn’s presentation is included as Appendix 2. If there are questions about the project, please contact Kathryn at 519-776-5209 x303 or karthur@erca.org.

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4. Expenditures Update

Natalie directed the group to review the attached summary of expenditures for discussion purposes only (Appendix 3). She explained that all projects listed in the 2011-2012 FY were completed with a surplus (total \$7,168.48). She proposed three recommendations (listed below) which the group discussed.

- *Recommendation 1: That the 2011-2012 tree planting surplus amount of \$6,132.00 be carried over into the future budget for additional community tree/wildflower/shrub planting events, as needed.*
- *Recommendation 2: That the 2011-2012 project surplus of \$1,036.48 be used to sponsor the State of the Strait Conference (\$500) and the Detroit River Water Festival (\$500) with the remaining \$36.48 moving into the overall future budget.*
- *Recommendation 3: The the 2011-2012 project list be considered **completed and closed**.*

The group requested that Natalie follow-up with her funding contacts to find out if the Detroit River Water Festival (U.S. event) can be sponsored. If not, they asked that the support of \$500 be provided for bus transportation to bring Canadian students to the Detroit River Water Festival event. **The motion to accept all recommendations (with potential revisions to Recommendation #2) was made by Pearl Bradd, seconded by Gord Harding. Carried.**

ACTION: Natalie will contact the funding partners to determine if the Detroit River Water Festival can be sponsored by the DRCC and will notify the group when confirmed.

5. Project Updates

Natalie directed the group to review the written project updates attached to the agenda (and to this meeting record; Appendix 4). She explained that because the updates are written, she will not be addressing all items, only specific items. Natalie reported, on behalf of Derek Coronado, that the CEA is in the process of organizing the Detroit River Boat Tour (\$5K sponsored by the DRCC) to be hosted on July 13, 2013 – noon to 4 pm. Natalie reminded the group of the bookmark project and handed out an example of the bookmark and the bookend poster for review. She noted that local libraries are keen to distribute the bookmark(s) and display the coordinating poster. The group liked the poster and bookmark without revisions. They discussed other topics to complete a series of bookmarks: lake sturgeon, native plants, bald eagles. Lastly, Natalie reported that the GLIER garden sign was completed (she provided a copy for viewing) and is being printed—to be installed in the spring.

Natalie provided the group with a verbal update on 2013-2014 projects which have just begun; most are already in progress. She noted that a written update will be provided at the next meeting.

6. Steering Committee/Technical Work Group Update

Natalie reported that the Steering and Implementation Committee met on February 5, 2013 via teleconference to discuss the 2013-2014 Work Plan which they approved. Furthermore, they have requested that Natalie (with the Supervisory Group) lead the development of a “Delisting Strategy” for the Canadian side of the AOC to update the status of our BUIs, provide guidance on delisting options, and list all of the remediation actions to be completed to delist the AOC. Natalie noted that she will keep the group informed of progress on the document and if anyone wishes to participate, to contact her.

PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

7. PAC Update since Dec.10/2012

- Airport PSWs / Woodlots
Please refer to the presentation by Kathryn Arthur.
- W-E Parkway and Compensation Lands
No news since last meeting. Awaiting confirmation from Parkway project representatives.
- Petroleum Coke mounds on Detroit River U.S. Shoreline
Tom summarized the concern about the pet coke piles stored on the U.S. side of the Detroit River. He noted that he’s been advocating on behalf of the Canadian PAC about the environmental concern of the piles. He explained that letters to politicians and other were written and he heard back from MP Brian Masse, four City of Windsor Councillors, Environmental Commission Gord Miller, Sierra Club, and the Minister of the Environment Jim Bradley. He added that coverage by the Windsor Star has been great. Mary Bohling added that there is a plan by the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy to extend the Detroit Riverwalk

(U.S.) toward the Ambassador Bridge but the last piece of property impeding the extension is the site where the coke piles are stored. She noted that a Riverwalk event is planned for May 1 that may also apply pressure to removing the petcoke piles.

- U.S. PAC Updates

Mary, U.S. PAC Chair, reported that the group last met on March 18 whereby they received an informational presentation by Dr. Bruce Manny of the USGS. She noted that his presentation identified 7-8 potential aquatic restoration sites in the entire Huron-Erie Corridor (3 of which are already funded). She noted that the US PAC is working with Dr. Ken Drouillard (of GLIER) on sediment contaminant mapping in the Detroit River to focus sediment remediation efforts; the report is due by end of May. Mary explained that their PAC is developing a BUI matrix to identify actions required for each BUI to achieve delisting and focus on priorities. Lastly, she reported that she and Natalie will be working together to organize the first Detroit River Bi-national BUI Event to celebrate the re-designation of the Fish Tainting BUI. *If anyone is interested in assisting with planning this event, please contact Natalie.*

The next U.S. PAC meeting is on May 20 (location TBA); all are welcome to attend.

- Ojibway Shores

Tom reported that at the April 4 WECEC meeting the Environmental Community was informed that the Windsor Port Authority (WPA) has hired a consulting firm to assess the Ojibway Shores property in order to clear the land and use it to store fill required for constructing the new bridge/plaza. Phil added that if this project is undertaken, it will limit opportunities to protect Ojibway Shores. The PAC decided that in order to protect the important linkage between the Detroit River and terrestrial habitat (Ojibway Shores) a letter writing campaign to local politicians/media as well as the WPA needs to be developed. Furthermore, it was noted the WPA's membership on the DRCC should be questioned if they are not respecting the Detroit River ecosystem and the DRCC goals.

Recommendation: An ad-hoc committee (Tom, Marcia, Dave, Phil and Derek) to develop letter writing plan and put a package together to present to the WPA and other. Meeting April 15, 2013 – 10:30 am at the Windsor Airport.

ACTION: Natalie will notify Phil of the next Habitat Work Group meeting so he can discuss Ojibway Shores with them.

8. Upcoming events

- Earth Day Tree Planting – April 21 near WFCU (supported by DRCC)
- Windsor-Essex Earth Day – April 28 at Malden Park (volunteers needed for DRCC booth)
- Detroit River Evening – June 19 (location TBA)

Tom added that the Windsor-Essex Environment Committee is organizing a trip to Humbug Marsh (part of the International Wildlife Refuge) on Friday, June 14, 2013 and that PAC members are invited to attend. Please contact Averil Parent for more information.

9. Meeting adjournment

Tom Henderson and Marcia Valiante adjourned the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm

APPENDIX 1

Attendance

Marcia Valiante	EPI Chair
Tom Henderson	PAC Chair
Gord Harding	PAC Vice Chair
Caroline Biribauer	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Mary Bohling	U.S. PAC Chair
Pearl Bradd	EPI/PAC Member
Steve Marks	Essex County Field Naturalists Club
Elizabeth Munn	Friends of Canard River
Dave Munro	EPI/PAC Member
Ian Naisbitt	Little River Enhancement Group
Pete Thomas	CAW Local 200
Phil Roberts	Essex County Field Naturalists Club (alternate)

Kathryn Arthur	Guest Speaker (ERCA)
Natalie Green	RAP Coordinator

Regrets

Kris Ives	RAP Assistant
Derek Coronado	Citizens Environment Alliance
Rick Coronado	Windsor Labour Council
Mike Walsh	EPI/PAC