

MEETING RECORD

DRCC Education and Public Involvement Work Group

Thursday, March 10th – 4:30-6:15
Ojibway Nature Centre, Windsor, ON

1. Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Agenda

Claire called the meeting to order at 4:38. Round-table introductions followed (*see Meeting Attendance – Appendix 1*). Claire explained that this meeting is primarily an EPI meeting and as such, did not include the last PAC/EPI meeting record for approval. It will be approved at the next joint EPI and PAC meeting. Agenda was approved by consensus.

2. PAC Update since December 16, 2015

Tom Henderson provided a PAC update to the EPI.

- a) Ojibway Shores – Since the meeting in December, Tom wrote two letters to the federal Transport Minister, Marc Garneau. Tom asked Mr. Garneau to consider protecting Ojibway Shores as compensation for the new plaza and bridge. In his response, Mr. Garneau turned all responsibility for the property to Windsor Port Authority, as they are the entity responsible for managing Ojibway Shores. Tom sent a similar letter to federal Environment Minister, Catherine McKenna, copied to Glen Murray, but has not received a response. On February 11th, Tom attended the first annual Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority meeting and inquired further about the possibility of preserving Ojibway Shores as compensation.
- b) Windsor Airport property – Tom informed the EPI that the Windsor Airport restoration project is on-hold as the new Director of Operations does not want any more habitat created on the property. After the Samsung Solar Project erects wildlife exclusion fencing, approval for the rest of the planned restoration work may be easier to obtain.
ACTION: Tom Henderson will talk to Phil Roberts to come up with a strategy to obtain approval to complete the airport restoration project.

- c) Kennette property – Tom noted that Fisheries and Oceans Canada granted Mr. Kennette permission to infill 200 feet out into the Detroit River. The City of Windsor has requested a copy of the permit but has not received it. As far as Tom is aware, there has been no activity on the property yet, as compensation plans must be made first.

ACTION: Claire will provide Fisheries and Oceans Canada contact information to Tom Henderson so that he may request the permit on behalf of the PAC.

3. Presentation and discussion on DRCC Outreach & Engagement Strategy

Claire reminded the EPI that the Steering and Implementation Committee has been interested in developing a more formal outreach and engagement strategy. Susanne Tomkins (Essex Region Conservation Foundation) began the strategy in 2015 but has since left ERCF. The DRCC then engaged Danielle Breault Steubing, ERCA's Director of Community Outreach Services, who completed the strategy. The strategy was developed based on feedback from the EPI and PAC, the public (through feedback received during the movie night in February), and

other AOC strategies. Danielle presented the draft DRCC Outreach and Engagement Strategy to the group, highlighting potential engagement tools (see Appendix 2). In terms of priorities for the DRCC, Danielle suggested an asset map showing all the work done in the AOC to date would be useful. She also highly recommended a visual identity strategy, which would ensure consistency and efficiency. Danielle also suggested greater involvement in the Essex Region Children's Water Festival and the possibility of holding a "Detroit River Day." Lastly, Danielle suggested presenting to City and Town councils as an inexpensive and easy way of reaching valuable stakeholders. Members of the EPI provided feedback on the strategy and suggested ideas for additional tools and events. Claire noted that many of the tools and events suggested were "staff heavy" in terms of time investment. She asked that the EPI give her direction as to where she should focus her time.

Rick noted that the U.S. side of the river still has a number of remedial actions to complete. Claire agreed that the toxic hotspot map highlights this fact but that the U.S. is making a lot of progress, particularly with habitat restoration. She suggested that someone from the U.S. PAC should come to a DRCC PAC meeting to give an update.

ACTION: Claire to invite someone from the US PAC to the Canadian PAC to give an update on US progress.

Pearl mentioned that educating elementary and secondary students should be a top priority, and that the environment has become an important focus of the curriculum. Students could be involved in testing water samples from the Detroit River. Pete suggested that students could work with GLIER to conduct the testing. Danielle agreed that water sampling could be a valuable citizen science project idea and that this could be added as an education and outreach tool.

Steve mentioned that Peche Island Day was a great event, in terms of education and outreach value. Claire explained why the event has not taken place the past two years (i.e. weather problems in 2014 and lack of boats in 2015). Claire asked EPI members to think of possible boat owners to approach. The owners should have commercial liability insurance.

Ralph suggested that the DRCC could become more involved with anglers and fishing derbies on the Detroit River. Claire agreed and said she'd look into contacting Sportman's Clubs.

Tom Henderson suggested an international trip to Humbug Marsh as an education and outreach event. Pearl suggested a tour of the Canadian side of the Detroit River as well. Claire said she'd get cost estimates for both.

4. 2015/16 budget review and 2016/17 budget discussion

Claire noted that the 2015/16 budget is on track. In terms of school plantings, she explained that Caroline has been trying to sign stewardship agreements with the board. These agreements are necessary for planting to take place. The money allotted for trees and shrubs will be spent by this spring; approximately half will be spent on trees for the Earth Day planting.

Claire provided an overview of the 2016/17 budget. She explained that the money in the outreach budget comes from the MOECC and ECCC. Environment and Climate Change Canada provides \$15,000 for trees and shrubs each year, which is typically directed towards Caroline's school and community plantings. Annually, approximately \$1000 is set aside for volunteer event supplies. Claire suggested this money could be spent on a BUI delisting event instead this year to celebrate the re-designation of Degradation of Aesthetics and Beach Closings BUIs. Other on-going projects for 2016 include the CEA Boat Tour and the Children's Water Festival. Claire asked if the group agreed with all those line items or wanted to reallocate any of that funding; the group

was in agreement. Claire noted that approximately \$11,700 remains for other projects. Suggested ideas include: watershed model, asset map, permanent display at Ojibway Nature Centre, signage at Lakeview Park Marina, more videos. Claire looked into the cost of developing videos. Two options with Suede Productions include: four 2-minute videos for \$16,790 or 1-hour documentary for \$47,000. Andy Paling suggested looking into 109 Productions.

ACTION: Claire to get the contact information for 109 Productions from Andy Paling and get a quote for videos.

Tom Preney elaborated on the Ojibway display. He explained that the Friends of Ojibway Prairie hired someone to create a layout for a new display area at the Ojibway Nature Centre. He mentioned that over 5000 students visit the centre each year, and more than 100,000 people. The Detroit River display would include a mural and a display case which could house a flat-screen TV. A tablet or SMART Table would make the display more interactive. Tom Preney estimated the display would cost between \$4000-5000.

A discussion ensued regarding phragmites control. Tom Preney informed the group that a Phragmites Task Force Group has been set up, and that the group is going to conduct a couple of pilot projects this year. Claire explained that Phragmites is not an "AOC-issue" but noted that the Habitat Work Group acknowledges that it does further degrade habitat in the Detroit River AOC.

Ralph asked about potential habitat restoration in the Detroit River watershed. Claire noted that there are projects being planned for 2016 by the Habitat Work Group and ERCA and offered to provide an update.

ACTION: Claire will provide an update to the EPI on Detroit River habitat restoration work at a future meeting.

Claire asked for approval from the EPI to focus her time on researching costs for the following projects: watershed model, Ojibway Nature Centre display, and Lakeview Park Marina signage (to be completed this year); videos (to be completed in the future). Derek suggested asking the City of Windsor what they'd be willing to contribute to the Lakeview Park signage and Claire agreed. The EPI supported Claire's request, with the exception of Patricia who suggested holding off on making a decision. Patricia explained that contentious environmental issues may come up that need the DRCC's support to educate people on the issue.

ACTION: Claire will look into the cost of developing a portable watershed model and signage for Lakeview Park Marina, and the cost of producing videos.

ACTION: Tom Preney will provide pricing for the Ojibway Nature Centre display to Claire.

5. Meeting Adjournment & Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43. The next meeting will be a joint EPI and PAC meeting.

Meeting record prepared by S. Baldo.

APPENDIX 1

Attendance

Tom Henderson PAC Chair
Caroline Biribauer EPI Co-Chair

Ralph Benoit
Pearl Bradd
Derek Coronado, CEA
Rick Coronado, CEA
Adela Emery
Steve Marks, ECFNC
Andy Paul
Andy Paling
Tom Preney, City of Windsor
Patricia McGorman
Pete Thomas

Danielle Breault Steubing ERCA Communications Director

Claire Sanders RAP Coordinator
Sarah Baldo RAP Assistant