

Meeting Record
DRCC Public Advisory Council
DRCC Education and Public Involvement Work Group
Wednesday, April 30, 2014 – 4:30 to 6:30 pm
Airport Conference Room, Windsor, ON

- **Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda** (5 min)
- Tom called the meeting to order at 4:37pm. Welcomes all in attendance; Agenda approved by consensus.
- **Approval of December 9, 2013 Meeting Record and Review of the following Action Items:**
 - **Natalie to determine if Amherstburg has CSO outlets and where they are located.**
 - **The PAC will review the report and provide comments to Natalie in writing before February 3 (done)**
 - **Tom will draft a letter to COA AIC Co-Chairs (Jon Gee (EC) and Dawn Walsh (MOE)) regarding the need for a revised COA (done)** Tom wrote a letter to the Ministers with copies to John Gee and Mike Moroney urging fast passing of the Canada Ontario Agreement. Tom has heard that it is close to passing.
 - **The PAC will review the report and provide comments to Natalie in writing by January 6 (done)**
 - **Tom will organize a meeting of the sub-committee for early January 2014 (done)**
 - **Ian Naisbitt will make a presentation on behalf of the PAC (and Li'Reg) to request that a recommendation from WECEC to City Council be made to support this second phase of the Airport Swamps project (done)** Phil reported that it went to the Standing Committee last week. The recommendation didn't make it February for reasons unknown. The meeting was cancelled for March. It just went to the SC for April; in the interim, it went to administration and then to Airport Authority – the Airport replied saying that they don't have an issue with financial loss or with it being a wildlife attraction. However, a number of land use issues in front of us, so it should be deferred. The land use issues are the City's – 1) the airport's environmental section of the Master Plan, identified 120m buffers around the woodlots – not accepted by City Council (big challenge from St. Louis family) – the City's concern is where does the buffer start/stop? Meeting at the beginning of April to deal with buffer/adjacent land issue. A report is now going to council on that. 2) the mayor has announced a solar panel development here at the airport, and a concept of a regional hospital. 3) There has always been a notion that if we create a swamp woodland that you could develop a green infrastructure for storm water. The confusion is that, even though this is not a storm water feature, we would like to test it as if it were. The CA does not approve of that. A meeting is scheduled with Tim, John, Kate, Mike N, Mario, etc. to look at how this structure might look. Ultimately, the confusion is that it isn't a storm water feature. We have to go through this so we aren't challenged with wildlife attraction. It is important to hydrologically link these two woodlots. Earthworks for late 2014, then it will be ready for

tree planting in spring of 2015. The facility can't hold water – need to plant trees, get them established, then slowly introduce water. Phil is confident that we can move this forward, we have lost months of progress with the Standing Committee. We received an endorsement in principal.

- **Natalie will provide the lyrics and an email link to the members. Submit your comments to Natalie via email as soon as possible (done)**
- **Work planning for 2014/15 (done)**

PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

3. PAC Update since December 9, 2013

- a. Ojibway Shores (T. Henderson/S. Marks)
 - ECFNC involvement and surveys
 - On July 3rd there was a WPA open house that had excellent attendance. September 26th there was a smaller meeting with our Reps, ERCA, Brian Masse and WPA, and Jeff Watson. It was agreed at that meeting that the WPA would open up the OS property for the entire 2014 calendar year for the ECFN and ERCA to do a biological inventory. ECFN schedule of plans has been shared with Cree from the WPA. Tom wrote to the Windsor Star and it was printed – keeping OS front and centre. Tom has another suggestion for a solution: ex. Province provides compensation land. So, say to WPA, the Province is doing it – why don't you? For the group's consideration: the WPA will be well compensated for the land/air that is being used for the development of the new bridge. Perhaps we should be putting forward the idea that perhaps the MOT should be in some sort of compensation mode and provide OS as compensation for natural areas that will be destroyed by the plaza a bridge? Should Tom approach the WPA and the MOT to donate OS to the environmental community as a park/ERCA property whatever – as a part of the compensation package for the land which will be destroyed with the plaza? Phil noted that it is already one of the strategies that we have. Phil asked do we want to include the WPA at this point? Phil noted that the argument becomes stronger when we do some of our EA background work? He feels that it might be premature at this stage. Phil – are there any official details on this, or is this speculation? Freedom of information – what is their entitlement in regard to the bridge plaza land/air rights? Is there a payment in perpetuity planned? Is the number negotiated - has anyone assigned value to that and can we find out? Derek added that in our letters to the Ministers they have to do an environmental planning report – we have flagged that with both Ministers. They know that we are waiting and waiting to be notified. We are still waiting. Keep in mind Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited, etc and their existing relationship with the Feds. Phil – start with Masse and Watson – we are waiting for you guys to come back with some sort of solution on OS (Watson promised a March response). We understand that the WPA stands to make money on land and air rights – is this not compensation enough? That may be the way to form it. First, it is important for us to be sure that we know that they are going to get air rights and land rights compensation (a revenue stream based on the plaza and bridge development) let's leverage that. Tom asked if there should be a City of Windsor component? Mike Walsh – the City is under a legal obligation to complete infrastructure on that property by virtue of a previous land swap with the WPA

(within 6 months). That's a major item around the neck of the City. They make light of it, but it is a real requirement according to their legal department. The City has a real desire to get out from under that obligation, which they would if there was a land swap. The mayor is on his way out. Saving OS might be a nice environmental feather for the City's mayor to put into his hat. Dave thinks that at some future meeting with the larger group, the City shouldn't be let off of the hook. Pearl noted that we have to wait a bit – we aren't ready now.

- ACTION: Tom will continue research to find out what that kind of agreement looks like – air/land rights agreement.
 - ACTION: Tom to follow up with Jeff Watson to come back to us with his information (as promised) as we are beyond the date he originally noted.
 - Essex County Field Naturalists' Update: They have done a nest distribution study last December – an early start to breeding bird activity. They are mapping the vernal pools (ephemeral ponds); they are scheduled to fly over the property to get aerial photos of the wet footprint of the property. The snake guys have put out monitoring boards on OS property and City of Windsor Properties. Joel Gagnon has two grad students looking for projects- they will start with geophysical work: native soils, fills, dump sites, hydrology, etc. A whole group (Jerry Waldron) will start on the plant species study. Breeding bird study / mist netting, to start soon.
 - Tom and Phil, from a PAC standpoint, will contact Richard Wyma regarding his commitment that Dan Lebedyk will be able to do a land assessment study for us (committed on Sept. 26, 2013 at the WPA meeting). ACTION: Tom to draft an email and follow up with Richard.
 - New Bridge
- b. Petcoke on U.S. side of Detroit River (T. Henderson) Tom reported that they want to store it downriver on the American side – American politicians have turned this down. That's good news, for now. Rick Coronado reported that there is a proposal to store petcoke in River Rouge. The issue is how does DEQ deal with it under these permitting issues. That area is right across from LaSalle.
- c. Western Lake Erie Watersheds Priority Area – Tom spoke with JoAnn Gignac about doing the same for City properties. Had a meeting with Paul Pratt and Bill Roesel about the declaration of properties – it went through City Council on the consent agenda. Areas that are now included that are City owned include: Peche Island, Black Oak Heritage Park, Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Oakwood Park. Federal properties aren't yet included, specifically Point Pelee National Park, but it already has the highest level of protection as a National Park.
- d. Compensation Tour and Seminar – April 29, 2014 at Ojibway Nature Centre. Dave and Derek attended, Tom attended the tour. A confidentiality agreement was signed, so too much information can't be shared. Within the context of the agreement, they can say: well organized and very informative. Andreas Stencil said we are now up to almost 50 hectares; Chappus Street – a worker found Butler's Garter Snake. So, this land has been secured, as well as land at Redock (Cabana and Todd Lane) and the 10th concession. Will have an eco-tunnel for animals that can go right from the Oakwood Bush (PSW as of 2011) over to the Redock area. Have found significant flora (over 200,000) and will make the entire section near the school a Priority Natural Area. Development of snake hibernica. Derek noted that with all combined areas it ends up being over 100 hectares. The members who attended feel that it was a windfall. Another presentation was from EC – recovery strategies and the publication of those – most of those, when published, will be

open for public comment for 60 days – we need to keep an eye out for those and be sure to participate in the public comment period. Derek added that they have 6 more years of monitoring to do and what will happen to the restoration sites when the monitoring period is done. Dave Munro is very interested in the ‘Safe Passage’ memorial and determining its original location. If it were determined to be near Ojibway Shores, that would be a great benefit to the cause. First Nations themes will be incorporated into the new 12km walkway. Pete notes that this will be an excellent foundation laid for an eco-tourism industry. Derek was particularly interested in was the success rate for the relocation of species – the success rate (according to the presentation) is that they don’t have enough years of data to do proper trend analysis.

- e. Note: Marcia Valiante is on sabbatical in Toronto, but her role to assist the PAC with moving OS forward legally was and is integral. Thank you Marcia!

DRCC EDUCATION & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORK GROUP

- **Project Updates** (See Appendix 1 - All)
 - a) Tree Plantings – Caroline Biribauer reported that the money was spent as of this fiscal. ACTION: Caroline to provide the statistics via email to Caroline.
 - b) Canard River – entrance sign completed
 - c) St. Joseph’s – done and being installed this week.
 - Receive appendix one by consensus
 - Receive appendix two by consensus

MOTION: Approve the 2014/2015 budget as presented; discussion; approved.
2014/15 Budget Approval (see Appendix 2); Review/Discussion
Recommendation: *The EPI Approves the 2014/15 Proposed Outreach and Education Budget*
- **Steering Committee Update (Tom):** Nothing to report.
- **Technical Work Group Update** (C. Sanders): Nothing to report. Monitoring and Research Work Group meeting is coming up in May – will keep you informed. Working now to finalize the delisting plan. Natalie attended the AOC workshop in February with Natalie; 2 days in Hamilton. Natalie brought a lot of concerns about delisting from the PAC meeting and what will happen after that.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - BUI Re-designation Celebration – May 7, 2014: Claire – one week from today is the BUI fish tainting re-designation celebration; spaces still available and we would love to have some EPI/PAC members there. It is on Fighting Island – leaving for the Island bw 10am and 10:30 – the event starts at 11am. It is a bi-national re-designation and promises to be an informative and entertaining event. Also a fish fry. You have to register online. Departs from the Senator Street Dock, LaSalle.
 - Detroit River Evening – June 18, 2014: Held at the Waterfront Hotel on the second floor, downtown Windsor (the old Hilton) – the second launch of our Museum Exhibit and our Annual General Meeting. Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner, will be our guest speaker.

- Saturday July 12, 12 – 4pm; state of the Detroit River Boat Tour, CEA
- **Other:** Claire reported that they had a successful cleanup recently (add info here)
- Claire is grateful for the introductions that she has had and for the assistance people have provided. She appreciates your patience and is looking forward to working with you.
- **Meeting adjournment:** by the chair at 5:57pm

Next Meeting: at the call of the chair

APPENDIX 1

Project Updates

April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 (Last Fiscal Year)

ITEM	UPDATE
Tree plantings	Completed. Caroline Biribauer (lead person for DR, CR and TC community planting events) is starting fall planting projects in partnership with local groups and schools. A final planting report will be provided to the DRCC in Spring 2014.
E-newsletter, DRDIS & Website hosting	Completed. This item includes the cost of the DRCC's electronic communication with the public and stakeholders through a monthly E-newsletter, website and the delisting system. Payment for these services is normally in October/November.
Detroit River Evening & Annual Report	In progress. The 4 th Annual Detroit River Evening will take place in June 18, 2014 and will be linked a tour of the museum exhibit.
Windsor Community Museum Exhibit	In progress. Kris is working with the museum education coordinator, Hugh Barrett, and curator Madelyn DellaValle, to develop and prepare the exhibit. Text is being draft and Kris is working with a graphic artist to produce displays. Launch Date: June 1 st (2-4pm) All are welcome to attend the opening; light refreshments provided.
Children's song	Completed. The song was being developed by a professional songwriter and is available for use now (see attachment)
Signage @ Canard River Park	Completed. An entrance sign was developed led by a team of staff from LaSalle, Amherstburg, DRCC and ERCA (design option presented at June 2013 meeting). The sign was produced and will be installed soon.
Signage @ St. Joseph's Church Native Garden	Completed? The interpretive sign is being developed by a team of Friends of Canard River with assistance from a graphic artist. A final draft will be presented to this group when it is completed.
Airtime on CTV and Cineplex	Completed. The short, 30 sec. public service announcement aired on CTV from April to September. The cost of this project was shared with the City of Windsor.
Municipal Education Kit	Not started. Re-allocate this money (\$300) to printing bookmarks
Re-designation Event	In progress. A bi-national fish fry celebration event is being planned for May 7, 2014.
Pêche Island Day	Completed. Event was held on Saturday, September 28 by a team of DRCC members including City of Windsor, Citizens Environment Alliance, Field Naturalists Club and the RAP Coordinator. It was our best event yet with 545 people crossing the Detroit River to visit the island! Great work, everyone!
Film Screening	Completed. Event occurred Wednesday, November 6 at SilverCity Windsor.

Past Projects Update

ITEM	UPDATE
Cleanup/Volunteer Event Supplies	Completed. This item supported the cost of hosting community cleanup and other volunteer events. Costs include supplies such as gloves, garbage bags and tools, rental of restroom facilities, providing refreshments for volunteers, and directional signage.
Bookmarks	Completed. A series of four bookmarks (with matching posters) are completed and will be printed following a review period by the EPI Work Group. Bookmarks will be distributed to young readers through the Essex County Library, Windsor Public Library systems and the University of Windsor library. Posters will be hung at the end of bookshelves in certain libraries. The University of Windsor has offered its main display case at the Leddy Library to showcase the DRCC initiative from October 21 to November 11. This display will be the grand opening/unveiling of the bookmarks and posters. Printing is in progress.
Signage @ Riverdance Park	In progress. This funding was to support the cost of design and production of public-friendly, interpretive signage to educate about recent projects at (or near) the LaSalle Riverdance Park. Expansion of the spawning reef is to occur in October 2013.
Lesson Plans	In progress. Two lesson plans were developed by a Teacher Volunteer in 2012. The Windsor Science Centre may be utilizing the lesson plans as a testing group. Mike Walsh is working with Natalie, Pearl, and Kris to develop a lesson plan to compliment the sewerage video.
Sign @ Lauzon Parkway	Completed. Awaiting installation by ERCA to occur this fall. (follow up with Kevin Money)

APPENDIX 2
PROPOSED OUTREACH/EDUCATION PROJECTS
 April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015

ITEM	Details	Budget
Tree plantings	Native plant materials (trees, shrubs, wildflowers) for community planting events in the Detroit River watersheds (Little River, Turkey Creek, Canard River and Detroit River sub-watershed). Implemented by ERCA (Caroline is the lead)	\$15,000
E-newsletter, DRDIS & Website hosting	To support the annual cost of our monthly E-newsletter and the maintenance of the DRCC's website. 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 and DRDIS (below) are necessary for hosting important DRCC/RAP/AOC information for the public.	\$1,000
Detroit River Evening & Annual Report 2015	Produce (design and print) the 2014-2015 annual report that summarizes all of the RAP activities between March 2014 and April 2015. The funding will also support costs to host the DRCC's Annual Detroit River Evening to celebrate all of our achievements with the public. The Evening features an interesting Guest Speaker to attract public attendance.	\$3,000
DRDIS (CSCI Fee for server & membership)	To support the membership fees and technical support for our Detroit River Delisting and Information System. This is a public resource for information sharing in the AOC and is critical to our corporate memory.	\$5,000
Detroit River Boat Tour Sponsorship	Financial support for the Detroit River Boat Tour which is organized by the Citizen's Environment Alliance. To be held in July 2014.	\$5,000
USB Sticks (with DRCC Logo)	Purchase USB sticks to distribute to teachers and other partners. Can be used to share RAP Information or specific educational information such as Detroit River song, lesson plans, handouts, brochures, etc. USB sticks should include our logo.	\$3,000
Volunteer Event Supplies	To support community cleanups or tree plantings (e.g., refreshments for volunteers, cost of a port-o-john, gloves, garbage bags, tools, etc.).	\$1,000
Special Events (PID and/or film screening)	Funding to support costs for hosting special events such as Peche Island Day (refreshments for volunteers) and/or the Annual Film Screening (theatre rental, film fees, poster).	\$2,000
Airtime on CTV for 30 sec public	Purchase airtime on local CTV television station (2014) to	\$3,000

service announcement	advertise the 30s public service announcement (PSA) entitled '1, 2, TP' (produced with last year's outreach funding). The PSA educates viewers about what not to pour down their toilet and sink drains. The City of Windsor has agreed to contribute an additional \$2K as a partner in this venture.	
Support for Native Plant Guide (includes native plant ID, information, pesticide/fertilizer free info)	Financial contribution to support the development of a Native Plant Guide. The guide should include information about the benefits of native plants, how to make a garden at home, what plants to use (ID), and promote pesticide/fertilizer free practices. Information from the DRCC "Pull, Don't Spray" brochures can be used to help guide information. Lead is ERCA.	\$800
Essex Children's Water Festival Sponsorship	Sponsorship for the Essex County Children's Water Festival. Event includes water conservation activities for school kids throughout Essex County (and Windsor).	\$500
Detroit River Water Festival Sponsorship	Sponsorship for the Detroit River Water Festival held in Detroit but open to Windsor students. Highlights water education and protection of the Detroit River.	\$500
New DRCC Shelter (10x10) for events	Replace the DRCC's damaged (it's over 10 years old) tent/shelter which is used at events like Peche Island Day and Earth Day.	\$200
		\$40,000