

Meeting Record

DRCC Education and Public Involvement & Public Advisory Council

Monday, December 10, 2012 – 4:30 to 6:30 pm
Conference Room, Windsor Airport, Windsor, ON

1. Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Agenda

Tom Henderson, PAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:38 pm and welcomed all in attendance. The Dec. 10 Meeting Agenda was approved by consensus. (*Meeting Attendance is attached in Appendix A*).

2. Approval of September 17, 2012 Meeting Record and Review of Action Items

September 17, 2012 Meeting Record was approved by consensus.

PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

3. PAC Updates

a. Airport Provincially-Significant Wetlands (PSWs)

Ian Naisbitt reported that he, Derek Coronado and Tom Henderson spoke as delegations at the December 3, 2012 Windsor City Council Meeting. The City adopted Schedule B: the PSW without the buffers included and Council asked the legal department to bring in a legal opinion later as to whether 120 m buffers are legally mandated or not (as part of the Provincial Policy Statement). He noted that the Mayor told Ian and Tom to start planting trees in the 120 m buffer zone of the woodlots (which are identified as Provincially-Significant Wetlands). Ian noted that he drafted a letter on behalf of the Little River Enhancement Group to invite City Representatives to a meeting to discuss the woodlot plantings. There was a discussion about plant species to be used at the location, if permitted. It was noted that Dan Lebedyk of ERCA may have already done an inventory and proposed species list for the site.

ACTION: Natalie will contact Dan Lebedyk of ERCA to inquire about a potential species list for the Windsor Airport Woodlot PSWs.

Natalie asked about regulations with respect to planting in and around PSWs as these could be considered to be site alterations. Marcia advised that since the intent is to protect/enhance the site, it should be allowed. Caroline noted that a permit may be required. The PAC will keep this in mind as the project moves forward. Derek noted that the term 'adjacent lands' may be the contentious issue. He added that the Conservation Authority's Act could require Ontario Conservation Authorities to be more aggressive in setting the sizing of these adjacent lands but requirements seem to be different across the province. Derek noted that historically, Ontario Municipal Boards have rejected any challenge to the 120 m wetland buffer. Ian added that the ERCA's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy highlighted this area for connective forest cover.

***ACTION: The PAC will advise Councillor Percy Hatfield that in Essex County any challenge to the 120 m wetland buffer has been rejected.**

b. Windsor-Essex Parkway and Compensation Lands

Tom reported that last January he attended a meeting with representatives at the Parkway Group regarding 15 hectares of compensation lands. Tom noted that he and Dave hadn't been able to get another meeting with the Parkway Representative until late September when they arrived unannounced. He noted that it was a good discussion and Tom offered to try to get groups and fundraising together to help naturalizing the compensation lands. On behalf of the Lil'REG, Ian has started fundraising for the effort and is working at obtaining \$2,000 for two years. Tom reported that he's attempted to contact Jan van der Woerd to notify him of the group's efforts but hasn't been able to reach him. Tom noted that he and Dave will return to the Parkway Office in early 2013.

c. Little River Cart Problem

Natalie reported that in late August she drafted a proposal with Caroline and Marcia, on behalf of the PAC, which was submitted to Leadership Windsor-Essex for a Community Action Project. She noted that the proposal was not accepted because there were a lot of project proposals and it may have been too different for the groups to be interested in picking up. Caroline suggested re-submitting the proposal for next year as there will be a new group of students. Natalie also reported that she was informed of a report that will be released soon that proposes some channel improvement of Little River. Caroline noted that even with channel improvements, attitudinal behaviours in that area will have to change to stop the behaviour of cart dumping. The group discussed some ideas for promotional items such as a "pull behind cart" with the DRCC or store logo to giveaway to people in that area and alleviate cart theft. Other ideas included coupons to pick up the giveaway cart and/or a public service announcement to educate and encourage the public about not dumping carts.

ACTION: Natalie will request a copy of the Little River report when it is completed and will bring to the group for discussion.

d. Western Lake Erie Priority Natural Areas

Tom wrote a letter to the editor published in the Windsor Star on October 26, 2012 to congratulate efforts on the signing of the Priority Natural Areas (PNA) agreement. Tom reported that he has since been in touch with John Hartig and that he would like to speak to City Councillors to continue to push for a Canadian equivalent for the Wildlife Refuge. He added that the process to begin adding lands to the list of PNAs seems to be moving slowly; Tom noted that he hopes that the PAC can continue to pressure the appropriate representatives to ensure things keep moving.

e. LaMP Updates Available

Tom reported that Environment Canada recently sent update factsheets for each of the Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs). Tom passed the handouts around for the group to review.

f. Ojibway Shores

Tom noted that there were no new updates on this topic other than Mr. Francis Kennette calling to inform Tom that he was in favour of adding Ojibway Shores to the list of Priority Natural Areas. Mr. Kennette owns the property adjacent to Ojibway Shores which is currently being used to dump Parkway materials.

Tom concluded the PAC portion of the meeting and Marcia, Chair of the EPI Work Group, opened the floor for the EPI discussions.

EDUCATION & PUBLIC INVOLVMENT WORK GROUP

4. Project Expenditures Update

Natalie explained that she keeps track of project spending on behalf of the group and that a detailed list of expenditures (unaudited, unofficial) was included with the meeting agenda (updated version as Appendix B). She noted that the list shows the item, budget, expenditures and balance and that any remaining funds can be reallocated to other projects for the next year with approval from the group, as needed. Natalie provided a thorough review of the expenditures and referred people to the detailed (written) project update report for further details. She also explained that any surplus funding for tree plantings can only be reallocated to other community events the following year. Natalie explained that, at the suggestion of Ian, the tree planting amount will be used to sponsor the 2013 Earth Day planting in the Little River watershed (off of Florence Avenue in Windsor, near the WFCU Centre) on Sunday, April 21st, 2013. She informed the group that the Windsor-Essex Earth Day Event will be the following Sunday, April 28 at Malden Park in Windsor.

5. Project Updates

Natalie reminded the group that she prepared a detailed written report on project updates, included with the meeting agenda. She encouraged the group to read over the updates and contact her with any questions. She noted that completed projects (marked as such) will be removed from the regular update list. Lastly, Natalie reported that the wastewater education video (completed with the City of Windsor) was released on November 30 and was very well-received with over 1,100 views on the DRCC's YouTube channel. There is interest in making the movie bilingual and it is already planned for use in classroom and other educational spheres by outside parties. To view the video, [click here](#).

6. Work Plan for 2013 – 2014

Natalie explained that she requested input from all members to submit for a brainstorming session. She received ideas from 3 people and the list was pared down from there. She noted that the longer list is available for future reference but only most relevant projects were chosen for discussion/decision purposes tonight. Natalie reviewed each of the proposed projects and asked the group for input and decisions on which projects to move forward with. She reminded the group that the work plan is for the fiscal year April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014.

The final draft of the work plan will be reviewed /approved by this work group by email or conference call before it is presented to the Steering and Implementation Committee in January.

The Work Group discussed projects and approved moving forward with all of the projects except those listed below (further details required). Moreover, an addition was made to add an educational information kit for municipal councillors (for each AOC municipality). Marcia suggested that the group needs to think about the next theme to tie projects or priorities (e.g., habitat, wetlands, or other). Natalie noted that using a theme can help ties items together as a package for teachers / classroom use. Marcia added that using theme (such as we did for promoting tap water) also focussed work as a group.

DECISION: The following projects were approved to be included on the 2013-2014 Annual Work Plan

- E-newsletter, website, etc.;
- Annual Report; Detroit River Museum Exhibit;
- Signage at Canard River Park;
- Interpretive signage at St. Joseph's Church Native Plant Garden;
- Community plantings;

- Detroit River Evening (with re-designation media event-depending on cost);
- Peche Island Day tours and t-shirts for volunteers;
- Purchase air time on local TV channels or Cineplex for wastewater ad
- Promotional items: recycled bottle pens and USB sticks (possibly bamboo)

Additions:

- An Education Kit for Municipal Councillors (for each of the AOC Municipalities) to be created and implemented through presentation to councils. Some new materials would need to be developed for this purpose. Cost is to be determined upon development of contents for the kit. A subcommittee including Derek, Marcia, Natalie, and Kris will work together on this project. If others are interested in joining this subcommittee, please contact Natalie.
- Order a new set of “Use less, save more” magnets due to popularity (instead of ordering stickers/buttons).

Requires further investigation before approval:

- Children’s song: this project will move forward if there is enough funding available once costing on approved projects is done.
- Translate the Wastewater Video into French for local francophone schools: this project will move forward if there is enough funding available once costing on approved projects is done.

ACTION: Natalie will revise the draft 13/14 work plan and send to the Group in January with cost estimates included.

ACTION: Natalie will obtain cost estimates for all projects that were identified with a “TBD” on the draft work plan.

ACTION: Natalie will contact City representatives to inquire about installing a floating dock or ladders on Peche Island which will help with getting people safely on and off boats.

7. Other Work Group Updates

- Natalie reported that the work groups are all in work planning phase for next year. She added that the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund sent a call for proposals last week and are due on January 23, 2013.
- Gord reported that he attended that the US PAC meeting last week (Natalie and Tom couldn’t attend) and that a new chair was chosen: Mary Bohling. Natalie noted that Mary sent a written update on various U.S. projects (Appendix B).
- Natalie explained that the Steering and Implementation Committee requested that a delisting context document be put together for the Canadian AOC. The RAP Governance Group (including Natalie, Tom and representatives from ERCA, MOE, and EC) will begin drafting the document.

8. Other Business

None reported.

9. Meeting Adjournment

Marcia and Tom adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Next meeting: TBA, 4:30 pm, Windsor Airport Conference Room.

*DRAFT Meeting Record prepared by Natalie Green and Kris Ives
Pending review by Marcia Valiante and Tom Henderson*

Appendix A

Meeting Attendance

Marcia Valiante	EPI Chair
Tom Henderson	PAC Chair
Gord Harding	PAC Vice Chair
Caroline Biribauer	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Rick Coronado	Windsor Labour Council
Derek Coronado	Citizens Environment Alliance
Ian Naisbitt	Little River Enhancement Group
Natalie Green	RAP Coordinator
Kris Ives	RAP Assistant

Appendix B

Expenditures Summary

*The chart below are for discussion and tracking purposes only and were not reviewed by an accountant or bank.
Please contact the RAP Coordinator for more information. Last updated: Dec. 19/12*

April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012

ITEM	Budget	Expenses	Balance	Done?
Tree plantings	\$15,000.00	\$8,541.06	\$6,458.94	✓
E-newsletter & Website hosting	\$1,000.00	\$977.20	\$22.80	✓
Detroit River Evening & Annual Report	\$2,000.00	\$2,076.90	-\$76.90	✓
Cleanup/Volunteer Event Supplies	\$600.00	\$560.30	\$39.70	✓
Brochure: Protect DR from Chemicals	\$1,900.00	\$445.00 \$768.40	\$686.60	✓
Detroit River Boat Tour Sponsorship	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0	✓
Events (movie night, Peche Island Day)	\$2,000.00	\$847.50 \$106.17 \$361.60 \$566.72	\$118.01	✓
Sewer Education Video	\$11,000.00	\$10,848.00	\$152.00	✓
Lesson Plans	-	-	No cost	
Sign @ Lauzon Parkway Cloverleaf	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0	✓
Purchase of DRDIS Server	\$4,000.00	\$4,143.23	-\$143.23	✓
Logo Re-design (for DRCC and PAC)	\$2,000.00	\$1,562.50	\$437.50	✓
Additional DRCC brochure design costs		\$200.00	-\$200.00	✓
TOTALS	\$45,000.00	\$37,504.58	\$7,495.42*	

**The amount of \$6,458.94 will remain in place for future community planting projects in the AOC watershed, as needed. The remaining \$1,036.48 can be re-allocated to another project based on the choice of the Work Group.*