

**1. Greetings, introductions and opening remarks**

Meeting Chair, Marcia Valiante, called the meeting to order at 5:38pm. She welcomed all in attendance and noted that since the meeting was a joint EPI and PAC meeting that she and Tom would each share Chairing their respective sections of the agenda. (*Meeting Attendance is attached in Appendix A*)

**2. Approval of December 1, 2010 Meeting Agenda and Approval of September 23, 2010 Meeting Record**

The December 1, 2010 Agenda and September 23, 2010 Meeting Record were approved by consensus.

Natalie reviewed the *Decisions and Actions Summary* Document with the group. Updates on action items were recorded in the September 23 *Decisions and Actions Summary* Document.

- Natalie and Tom will continue to communicate with the Windsor-Essex County Environment Council ad-hoc subcommittee.
- Natalie will continue to follow-up with Cathie Griffin (EWSWA) regarding the partnership on EnviroTips publication.
- Natalie will follow up with Dr. Doug Haffner to invite him to speak at the next PAC meeting on the water quality report (article in Windsor Star in September).

Phil provided an updated on the Ojibway Shores item (details are in that section of the agenda).

**3. Coordinator's Report**

Natalie noted that this is a new item that she requested be added to the agenda. The new agenda item will be to report on EPI WG spending (for outreach and education projects). She explained that the new budget was drafted with the EPI WG at the last meeting and the only funding spent since September was on the film screening (which was sponsored by other member organizations resulting in cost savings). Natalie informed the group that a more details financial breakdown of EPI project will be prepared for the next meeting.

Natalie announced to all those in attendance that she is expecting a baby in early March. She explained that her Supervisory Group is seeking an Acting RAP Coordinator during her maternity leave—the SG prefers filling the position with someone within a member organization that is already familiar with the RAP. During Natalie's maternity leave, Kris has agreed to continue as RAP Assistant one day a week to help fill any gaps and ensure a smooth transition for the Acting Coordinator. Natalie explained that any questions can be directed to herself or Tom (a Supervisory Group member). She offered to provide her most recent progress report to members upon request. Phil asked Tom if he could propose asking a group such as the Citizens Environment Alliance to take over the RAP Coordinator's position. Tom agreed to alert the Supervisory Group's representatives of the proposal.

**ACTIONS:**

- A detailed financial report for EPI projects (2010 & 2011) will be provided to members for the next meeting.
- Tom will notify the Supervisory Group of the PAC's suggestion to have an organization such as the CEA to assume the role of the RAP Coordinator during Natalie's maternity leave.

#### 4. 2009-2010 Outreach Projects Update

- **Bald Eagle Signage:** Natalie reported that the installation of the Bald Eagle interpretive signage is progressing. One sign was installed at Toddy Jones Park in Amherstburg thanks to the Town's Parks and Recreation Department. Another sign was delivered to Bill Roesel for installation in Windsor. There are now only a three remaining to be installed at other locations in the AOC municipalities of Amherstburg, Windsor, and LaSalle.

**ACTION:** Phil and Natalie will continue to follow-up with the municipalities to have the remaining Bald Eagle interpretive signs installed in other locations in Amherstburg, LaSalle, and Windsor.

- **Turkey Creek Native Plant Demonstration Garden:** The Turkey Creek Native Plant Demonstration Garden interpretive sign was installed by the Town of LaSalle on November 30<sup>th</sup>. This project can be removed from the list of for the next meeting.
- **Drinking Tap Water Project:** Natalie reported that the sub-group is progress well with several deliverables (water bottles and kids' tattoos being distributed, film screening organized, and brochure and magnet development in progress). She noted that the film screening of 'Tapped' at SilverCity Windsor was very well-attended with over 150 people and the DRCC partnership received a lot of media attention. DRCC stainless steel water bottles were provided to all those in attendance. Tom congratulated Natalie and the volunteers for a job well done on implementing the film screening. Natalie noted that, for the next film screening event, the DRCC should have messages prepared to show on the big screen prior to the film beginning. She noted that she prepared slides (describing the RAP, projects implemented by member organizations, and Detroit River facts) for this event but the format was not correct for the theatre's system. Phil Roberts added that WECEC has a few public service announcements shown at the WFCU Centre.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- The Drinking Tap Water sub-group will finalize the brochure and magnet before the holidays. Comments and approval will be done via email. Natalie will provide a deadline for the subgroup.
- If the EPI Group decides to host another film screening, it will develop a brief slideshow in the correct format to highlight the DRCC partnership before the film begins.
- **Student Video Contest:** The Video Contest sub-group continues to work on this project. The contest was released to the public on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Natalie reported that she received some feedback therefore it is hoped that students are creating video ads. The deadline for submission is March 25<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that these short video ads could be played before a film screening event next year. Also, the sub-group anticipates these videos to become public service announcements for the RAP.
- **Fall Tree Plantings** – Natalie reported for Caroline who was not able to attend the meeting—she has completed her fall community/school plantings and will be preparing for the spring plantings in early March 2011.

#### 5. 2011-2012 Work Planning (New Projects)

Natalie explained that the Work Group planned their 2011 projects at the September meeting. She noted that some projects require a Work Group lead representative to take on a project and work with the Coordinator to implement it. The lead person should report on project progress at each meeting. Natalie reviewed the projects

that require a lead Work Group member and requested volunteers. The representative was added to the 2011-2012 work plan. Natalie indicated that if anyone wanted a copy of the work plan to contact her. Below is a summary of the items discussed:

- DRCC handout/brochure – Derek/Natalie
- Produce the annual report – Natalie
- Drawing contest to develop 2012 calendar – Al / Pearl
- Produce / distribute E-Newsletter and website hosting – Natalie
- EnviroTips publication – Natalie /Karina Note: Phil and Derek will bring this item to WECEC for possible funding. Phil noted that this might be a good platform to promote issues like habitat linkages.
- Plant ID signage for gardens at the Turkey Creek and GLIER sites – Caroline
- Native Plant Community/School Plantings – Caroline / Ian
- Cleanup supplies – Caroline / Natalie
- Boat Tour – Derek
- Peche Island Day – Natalie/Derek

#### **6. EPI Chairperson Position**

Marcia (current EPI Work Group Chair) noted she has been Chair for a number of years and the position is open to other members that are interested. The group decided to table this item to a future meeting. Marcia will continue to represent the group as Chair.

*Tom Henderson served as Chair of the meeting from this point onward.*

#### **7. Provincially Significant Wetlands at the Airport**

Phil explained that the PAC (along with other organizations) continue to lobby to enhance/restore property at the Windsor Airport by connecting two of the Provincially-Significant Wetlands (PSWs) in the Little River watershed. He explained that the City is working on an Airport Master Plan but that it likely won't be going to Council until January 2011. Phil explained that when development occurs there must be mitigation for the loss of habitat. He went on to note that there will be development on Airport property (that will not pose a threat to the PSWs) that will eventually require compensation or mitigation so that there is no net loss of habitat. Therefore, those working on connecting the PSWs have been pursuing whether or not mitigation for that development can begin before any construction occurs. In other words, they'd like to know if habitat mitigation (by connecting the wetlands) can be "banked" to offset the mitigation that will be required for the development, when it occurs. If allowed, connection of the PSWs could happen soon rather than later. Phil explained that Matthew Child of ERCA is following-up with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada on this option.

Marcia asked how the PAC and its member organizations can participate in this PSW connection process. Phil replied that the groups need to continue to communicate through WECEC and its ad-hoc subcommittee. Tom noted that he has offered finding funding support and volunteers from various groups (Lil'REG and DRCC) to purchase native plant materials to restore and connect the PSWs. Phil explained that the next action in this strategy would be to develop a plan detailing the restoration. Tom noted that this area is Hillary Payne's Ward and that the WECEC subcommittee may want to approach him about the PSWs. Phil drew attention to the drains near the PSWs and explained that these are fish habitat.

**ACTION:** The PAC representatives must continue to communicate with the WECEC subcommittee as it relates to connecting the two Airport PSWs.

#### **8. Update on DRIC/Parkway Compensation Lands (Ojibway Shores)**

Phil reported that the sub-committee of WECEC was informed by City Planning that WECEC cannot compel the City Planning to prepare a report. The strategy is now for WECEC to produce a report to Council, to get on the agenda, and to make a presentation on it. WECEC may want to partner on the report with the PAC. The report might be received, filed, or moved to act upon. He explained that the PAC and WECEC may want to set up the strategy to ensure that there is time to discuss it in front of the Council. Phil continued that now that a bidder has been identified there will be more public consultation. He encouraged the PAC to bring their issues and concerns to the public meetings. He informed the PAC that the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club will be asked to complete some mapping of the potential compensation properties (including Ojibway Shores). He added that Dr. Jan Ciborowski has new equipment to examine the bathymetry (river bottom) and may be examining the Ojibway Shores area with it.

Tom reported that Joel Foster of the Ministry of Transportation forwarded an email on November 5, 2010 regarding the Windsor-Essex Parkway and the preferred bidder. Windsor Essex Mobility Group will be responsible for meeting the requirements of the Environmental Assessment for the Parkway project. Phil noted that there is 8.9 hectares of compensation lands remain to be identified to compensate for land being lost mainly at the intersection of Huron Church and EC Row Expressway. Phil concluded by announcing that Tom represents the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club at the WECEC meetings when Phil cannot attend.

#### **9. DRCC Committee or other Work Group Updates**

##### **a. Monitoring and Research Work Group/Habitat/PointNon-Point Source/RAP Governance**

Natalie reported that M&R WG is preparing a report on the Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavour (BUI #2) with information collected from the shoreline and on-water angler surveys this summer. The results indicate that there are no taste or odour issues in Detroit River fish. She explained that once completed, the survey will be sent to the PAC for review and comments.

Natalie added that the other groups have completed their work plans and following up on several project. For more information, please contact Natalie.

Phil asked how the PAC could obtain support or help from the Habitat WG on the Ojibway Shores property. Natalie noted they are aware of the PAC's campaign for protecting and enhancing Ojibway Shores as they have provided the PAC with information earlier this year. She encouraged PAC members to contact her if they would like to attend an upcoming meeting.

##### **b. Steering and Implementation Committee**

Natalie reported that S&IC met on November 29, 2010 (several PAC members were also in attendance). The Committee reviewed the 2011-2012 Work Plan and approved the proposed projects. The Committee discussed updating and maintaining the Detroit River Delisting and Information System ([www.delistingdetroitriver.com](http://www.delistingdetroitriver.com)). She explained that the content is out of date because the technician left and Natalie has not had time to maintain it. Tom reported on the DRCC's new structure and the PAC's role in the S&IC. He stated that the PAC's presence there is important and that PAC members are welcome to attend. RSVP to Natalie please if you plan to attend.

## 10. Update on draft Stage 2 RAP Report

Natalie reported that the Detroit River Canadian Remedial Action Plan Stage 2 Report has been approved by the Federal Government but the Provincial Government approval process is different and they waiting for feedback. The Canada-Ontario Agreement Management Committee is due to meet in December. She explained that it is anticipated to be approved at that meeting. In the meantime, an IJC representative was provided with an advance copy of the draft Report. She added that the report will likely be released in the New Year but the date on the document will remain as 2010.

## 11. Other Business

- Derek reported that the nuclear waste will be shipped through the Detroit River over the holidays just before the Welland Canal closes. It is all on one ship.
- Gord asked about bringing Amherstburg and LaSalle on-board to committees. Natalie noted that they do have representatives from those locations on some of the groups and agreed that it would be great to get them more involved. She encouraged the group to offer ideas.
- Tom brought in the Great Lakes Commissioner's *Advisor* publication out of Ann Arbor, Michigan. He also noted that the St. Clair River AOC Binational PAC's publication on progress in that AOC. He asked members to contact him for more information.
- Natalie reported that the US PAC and Wayne State University are hosting a series of workshops on Beneficial Use Impairments starting December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (1 -4 pm).

**ACTION:** Email the EPI WG and PAC information about the U.S. Workshop on addressing BUIs.

## 12. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Next meeting date TBA – after January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Natalie's will be away beginning mid-February 2011.

*Meeting record was prepared by Kris Ives, Assistant, and Natalie Green, RAP Coordinator  
Approved by the Council and Committee Chairs: Tom Henderson and Marcia Valiante*

**Appendix A**  
**Meeting Attendance**  
**EPI / PAC Meeting – Wednesday, December 1, 2010**

Marcia Valiante	Chair – Education and Public Involvement Work Group
Tom Henderson	Chair – Public Advisory Council
Gord Harding	Vice Chair – Public Advisory Council
Pearl Bradd	Public Advisory Council Member
Derek Coronado	Citizens Environment Alliance
Rick Coronado	Windsor and District Labour Council
Naresh Manku	Canadian Auto Workers (CAW)
David Munro	Public Advisory Council Member
Phil Roberts	Essex County Field Naturalists' Club
Tina Romaneh	Environment Canada
Al Stephens	Public Advisory Council Member
Pete Thomas	CAW Local 200 Computers for Kids

**Resource:**

Natalie Green	RAP Coordinator
Kris Ives	Assistant

**Regrets:**

Caroline Biribauer	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Ian Naisbitt	Little River Enhancement Group
Karina Richters	City of Windsor
Chris Vilag	CAW
Mike Walsh	Public Advisory Council Member