

Meeting Record

DRCC Education and Public Involvement Work Group Detroit River Canadian Public Advisory Council

Monday, December 9, 2013 – 4:30 to 6:30 pm
Airport Conference Room, Windsor, ON

1. Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda

Tom Henderson, PAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:34pm and provided roundtable introductions. The agenda was accepted as revised (shown in this meeting record). Attendance is attached in Appendix 1.

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

Attendees reviewed the October 7, 2013 meeting record and accepted it as presented. No action items to report upon.

PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

3. Presentation: Assessment of Degradation of Aesthetics BUI

Natalie provided a presentation including a backgrounder, an explanation of the aesthetics BUI, the public perception and condition survey, a review of data collected and, finally, a summary. Natalie opened the floor for questions and discussion. **Deadline to submit comments in writing is January 5, 2014.**

Discussion: Derek Coronado noted that the distinction could be made: Canadian locale, provide dates and times of survey, definition of 'persistent'. For example, had the survey been done in 2013 the petcoke may have been a concern. Phil Roberts asked about the location of all of the CSO outlets. Natalie explained that she does have that information for the City of Windsor (and that some of the sites for on or near a CSO outlet) and the Town of LaSalle doesn't have any because they have separated sewers but she was not sure about the Town of Amherstburg. Phil commented on the condition of the Broadway Drain due to the Parkway Project and noted some concern over comments around sediment not being a pollutant as they can carry pollutants. Natalie explained that the BUIs are compartmentalized but there is some overlap in issues (e.g., habitat and fish/wildlife populations) but that the BUIs were always related to the use and condition of the water specifically. Phil noted that he would like to see the scope of the Aesthetics BUI expanded to include the shoreline as well as the upper and lower lever of the shoreline (upland terrestrial and nearshore zone). Elizabeth mentioned that it's important to provide dates and times for sampling. Natalie replied that the dates/times were all recorded but are in the raw data that can be made available in the main report. Natalie thanked the group for their feedback on the draft report and encouraged people to submit their comments in writing. Natalie will take the comments to the Monitoring and Research Work Group on February 3, 2014 for their review and consideration.

ACTIONS:

- **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.**
- **Natalie will send an email to remind the group about submitting comments.**

4. Presentation: Detroit River Canadian Delisting Strategy

Natalie provided an overview of the Pathway to Delisting (Delisting Plan) that was produced for the Steering and Implementation Committee by each of the DRCC Work Groups. After the presentation, Natalie asked the group to review the written Delisting Plan and to provide comments in writing to her. She requested that the group discuss and that a decision on endorsement or not will need to be made by the PAC. (See Appendix 2 for presentation)

Main Discussion Points:

- Concern over the end date of the delisting plan (2018).
- Concern over the Delisting Principles that came from the Stage 2 RAP Report
- Should be more clarity around the difference between completed projects and actions.
- Who will be around to relay information to the public and answer questions that remain after delisting?
- Suggestion: change terminology used for shoreline restoration to shoreline rehabilitation.
- Concern over the status of the pending Canada-Ontario Agreement. The Delisting Plan means nothing until there is a funding commitment from COA the Area of Concern. The PAC needs to push the Federal and Provincial Government produce and sign a revised COA to ensure that priority issues in our AOC are supported.

MOTION: The Chair of the PAC will write letter to the Co-Chairs of the COA Annex Implementation Committee indicating the need for the revised COA to be signed promptly. Motion by Phil Roberts; Seconded by Ric Coronado. Motion carried by consensus.

ACTIONS:

- **Tom will draft a letter to COA AIC Co-Chairs (Jon Gee (EC) and Dawn Walsh (MOE)) regarding the need for a revised COA.**
- **The PAC will review the report and provide comments to Natalie in writing by January 6.**
- **A decision regarding whether or not to endorse needs to be made.**

5. PAC Update since October 7, 2013

- a) Ojibway Shores - Tom reminded the group of MP Jeff Watson's commitment to produce a report for the group by March 2014 as well as tour the Minister of Transport around the area. Tom reported that he hadn't yet heard anything and offered to follow up with MP Watson's office by mid-January. Phil reminded the group of the 1 year allotment given by the Windsor Port Authority to conduct a full biological assessment of the Ojibway Shores property. He reported that on December 8, 2013 the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club conducted their first assessment of the property (a bird nest survey). The survey was productive and begins to provide good scientific evidence for protecting the site. He added that there is still a need to find a solution for the WPA to give up the property. Phil strongly encouraged anyone planning to visit the site to become a member of the ECFN first, so they can be legally allowed and insured while on the property. Jim Drummond reported that he had an informal meeting with Dr. John Hartig at the State of the Strait about some potential options for the site (there may be land trust funding to acquire Canadian properties). He has also spoken with Ms. Isobel Heathcoat (who sets up various land trusts) and he explained that she may be interested in working with the PAC to set up property trust arrangements. Phil noted that the PAC should consider which group we want to set up a trust with. The group agreed that they need to connect with Jim's contact and revise/update the prospectus with options to present to the WPA in the spring.

MOTION: That the original Ojibway Shores subcommittee (Derek Coronado, Jesse Costa-Gardner, Mike Walsh, Tom Henderson, Marcia Valiante and Jim Drummond) be reconvened to revise the

prospectus and to connect with Isobel Heathcoat to discuss acquisition options for Ojibway Shores. Motion by Gord Harding; Seconded by Phil Roberts. Carried by consensus.

ACTION: Tom will organize a meeting of the sub-committee for early January 2014. (DONE)

- b) Airport Swamps Restoration Project - Phil reported that 8 acres were restored with an incredible 95% survival rate. He explained that the upcoming goal is to develop some topography features that would start to mimic the two natural, adjacent swamp features (ecological and hydrological connection). It was suggested that the PAC approach the Windsor-Essex Environment Committee to garner support from the City of Windsor for the project.

ACTION: 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)

DRCC EDUCATION & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORK GROUP

6. Outreach Project Review & Updates (Chair: Marcia Valiante)

- a) Detroit River Song - Natalie reported that a first draft of the song was received from Ashley Moffat and that the artist is looking for feedback from the group.
ACTION: Natalie will provide the lyrics and an email link to the members. Submit your comments to Natalie via email as soon as possible. (DONE)
- b) Native Plant Garden Sign - Caroline reported that an interpretive sign (bilingual) was designed for the native plant garden near St. Joseph's Church in River Canard. It will be installed in early spring 2014. The DRCC contributed funding for the plants in 2012 and \$1,000 toward the sign (the Friends of Canard River paid the balance).
- c) Film Screening Event - Natalie reported that it was a successful event. Natalie thanked Pearl, Pete, Tom and Elizabeth for their help with the event. She noted that the event was very well attended (216 registered and just under 200 attended). Very good questions for the Director and great feedback from the audience.
- d) 2014-2015 Work Planning - Natalie reported that every year we get approximately \$20K from COA and \$20K from Environment Canada. A list of proposed outreach projects and a budget needs to be developed. Phil suggested that a meeting just for work planning be called with no other agenda items. The group was asked to forward ideas to the Work Planning Group to be considered. The list can then be presented to the larger group for approval/input. Work Planning Group includes: Caroline, Pearl, Marcia, Phil, Kris, Natalie volunteered.

ACTION: Natalie will take the lead on the group and will follow-up via email. (DONE)

7. Steering Committee / Technical Work Group Update

Natalie reported that the Steering & Implementation Committee met on December 5 and discussed the Delisting Plan as well as upcoming Great Lakes Sustainability Fund projects and upcoming priorities. The Work Groups met in late November to develop the Delisting Plan.

8. Closing Remarks / Meeting adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:06pm.

Next meeting: TBD (at the call of the Chair when new Coordinator is hired)

Meeting Record prepared by Natalie Green, RAP Coordinator and Kris Ives, RAP Assistant.

APPENDIX 1

Attendance

Natalie Green RAP Coordinator
Kris Ives RAP Assistant

Tom Henderson PAC Chair
Marcia Valiante EPI Chair

Caroline Biribauer
Pearl Bradd
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Jim Drummond
Gord Harding
Steve Marks
Elizabeth Munn
Ian Naisbitt
Phil Roberts
Vince Skinner
Al Stephens
Pete Thomas
Chris Vilag