

Meeting Record

DRCC Education and Public Involvement & Public Advisory Council

Wednesday, June 27, 2012 – 5 to 8 pm

Conference Room, Windsor Airport, Windsor, ON

1. Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Agenda

Marcia, EPI Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:09pm and welcomed all in attendance. Roundtable introductions were held. Items were added to the agenda: 1) Amherstburg Public School Wetland Project, 2) WECEC subcommittee report. Agenda approved, as amended, by consensus.

(Meeting Attendance is attached in Appendix A).

2. Approval of February 13, 2012 Meeting Record (EPI/PAC) and April 2, 2012 (PAC)

- Decisions and Actions Document – Reviewed and approved as presented.
- February 13, 2012 Meeting Record – approved as presented by consensus.
- April 2, 2012 Meeting Record – approved as presented by consensus. Update: Tom has made a request to Mr. Stenzel for the map, but has not heard back.

ACTION: Tom will follow-up with Mr. Stenzel regarding the 15 ha of compensation lands in relation to the construction of the Windsor-Essex Parkway.

3. Project Updates / Financials

Natalie directed the group to the summary of funding and expenses related to Outreach Projects for their information and to assist with tonight's decision-making. She explained that the document is for keeping track of outreach expenses and is not an official cash flow statement. Together, the group reviewed all ongoing projects.

- DRCC Handout / Brochure
Natalie reminded the group that this was a 2010-2011 project that was not completed due to possible changes to the logo. She will continue to work with Marcia and on completing the project by fall 2012. She noted that the CEA received full payment for this project.
- Signs for native plant gardens
Natalie reminded the group that this was a 2010-2011 deliverable. The DRCC agreed to fund the purchase of identification signs for the Turkey Creek Native Plant Garden and the GLIER Native Plant Garden. She reported that 40 signs have been ordered and need to be picked up this week. She added that the Friends of Turkey Creek have done a great job of maintaining the garden and recently purchased two large rocks for butterfly basking areas. She reported that the sign for the GLIER Garden was not purchased because the garden is in great need of weeding. It became overgrown without enough volunteer support. Natalie and Caroline are working with staff at GLIER to coordinate a one day weeding event and mulching in August (weekday event; lunch provided). They would also like to find a group willing to adopt the garden and help maintain it through the Fall. Please contact Natalie if you are interested in helping.

ACTION: Natalie will email the group to request their help in the Weeding/Mulching event at the GLIER Native Plant Demonstration Garden.

- Brochures: “Go Natural! Pull, Don’t Spray” and “Don’t Let Your Chemicals Harm Our Detroit River
Natalie reminded the group that revising the brochures are listed as 2011-2012 projects. She explained that there are still hundreds of these brochures in stock. Natalie reported that she recently reviewed the “Go Natural” brochure and that there are some stale dates but overall it’s still a great resource. She noted that it would be wasteful to re-design, re-print and recycle all of the brochures for such a minor edit. Natalie asked the group to decide if they wanted to proceed with replacing the brochure or re-direct some funding to another project. For example, she reported that the large project sign at EC Row Expressway / Lauzon Parkway is severely damaged. The estimated cost to replace the sign is \$500. The group discussed the content of the brochure and the sign at Lauzon Parkway.

DECISION: The group decided not to reprint the “Go Natural! Pull, Don’t Spray” brochure. Instead, they would like \$500 to be re-directed to replacing the project sign at Lauzon Parkway; the balance of the funding will be spent on revising and printing the “Don’t Let Your Chemicals Harm Our Detroit River” brochure.

ACTION: Natalie to will proceed with ordering a new sign to replace the damaged one at Lauzon Parkway / EC Row Expressway.

Kris reported that there are several issues with the “Don’t Let Your Chemicals Harm Our Detroit River” brochure: incorrect folding, out-of-date information, very text heavy, poor image quality, etc. Marcia added that there are new concerns that should be included in the messaging (e.g., chemicals of emerging concern, e-waste, etc.). The group agreed that newly re-designed brochure should include timeless content for a broad audience. Kris asked the group if anyone was interested in assisting with revising the document which would include reviewing text and design options over email. Elizabeth, Pearl, and Marcia volunteered to assist with the brochure.

DECISION: Elizabeth, Pearl, Marcia, Natalie and Kris work together to revise and re-design the “Don’t Let Your Chemicals Harm Our Detroit River” brochure.

ACTION: Kris will obtain quotes on the design and printing.

ACTION: Kris will make edits to the text and sent to the subgroup for review and approval.

- Lesson Plan Development
Natalie reported that the DRCC hosted a teacher candidate volunteer, Kyle Swiston, for two weeks in May 2012. He worked diligently and produced two lesson plans (for grade 5 and grade 8) related to water and the Detroit River. When finalizing, the lessons will be posted on our website with additional resources. Natalie added that additional lesson plans can be developed in the future as the group wanted one per grade. Due to the time commitment in developing the lesson plans, Marcia suggested using the two already developed as a pilot project.

ACTION: Natalie and Pearl will review the lesson plans and distribute to the group for review/approval before posting to the DRCC’s website.

- Sewer / Waste Water Education Video
Natalie explained that this project is a deliverable from the 2011-2012 work plan. Natalie described the project which includes a longer (approx. 30 minute) video about sewerage (following waste water from the toilet to the Detroit River) to be used in educational settings (e.g., Grade 8 class) as well as a 30 second Public Service announcement about pollution prevention and waste water. Natalie directed the group to the draft list of messages for the video that she prepared. The group reviewed the list and suggested adding the following topics: chemicals of emerging concern, personal care products, industrial waste water treatment and the retention treatment basin but that the emphasis should be on personal waste water. Natalie added that a list of experts must be developed for Suede to interview.

ACTION: Please provide feedback to Natalie on the list of messages to be included in the video as well as experts that should be interviewed by July 3, 2012.

Natalie explained that the budget set aside for the project was \$5,000. She obtained quotes from the two reputable video production companies in Windsor which came in at approximately \$20,000 (the lowest quote by Suede Media was \$19,200 plus HST). The cost of the project will be shared with the City of Windsor. Since there are no costs expected for the development of lesson plans (due to volunteer assistance), she asked the group if it was possible to re-allocate the \$5,000 funding set aside for the lesson plan project to the video project. Therefore, the total available funding for the video project will be \$10,000. Natalie will find additional funding through other project savings to cover the balance.

DECISION: The group agreed to re-allocate \$5,000 from the lesson plan project to be spent on the sewerage / waste water education video.

Mike added that it would be great to develop a lesson plan around sewerage since it seems to be linked to the curriculum and offered to help. Natalie agreed that this was a great idea and thanked Mike for his assistance with the project.

ACTION: Mike and Natalie will work with Pearl to develop a lesson around sewerage and waste water treatment to accompany the educational video.

- Detroit River Boat Tour
Derek reported that the event will be taking place on Saturday July 14th at noon until 4pm. Lunch is included and there are four expert guest speakers. He noted that tickets are on sale but space is limited.
- Detroit River Delisting and Information System
Natalie reported that we are trying to move the DRDIS to a Canadian server. The system is not currently up and running and it is outdated. The RAP Governance group decided that \$5,000 from Environment Canada will be used to purchase a new server to be housed at the University of Windsor (through the Centre for Smart Community Innovation). When the DRDIS is moved to our new server, it will be available from a link on our website. Natalie reminded the group that the DRDIS is the DRCC's corporate memory; it houses meeting records, work plans, research, and other items related to the DRCC. To be completed in fall 2012.
- Tree Plantings
Natalie reported on behalf of Caroline: approximately 1500 native trees and 2400 native wildflowers were planted in the Detroit River watershed between November 2011 and March 2012. Most were placed in Canard River watershed due to project need in that area. Most projects were conducted in partnership with local schools.
- Peche Island Day 2012
Derek reported that this event will be taking place on September 22, 2012 from 10 am to 3 pm (as in past years). He added that the boat from BASF is confirmed and that GLIER is not sure if their boat will be available. Natalie explained that she contacted the MNR and the Windsor-Essex County Canoe Club; they have not yet confirmed. Derek and Natalie along with representatives from the City of Windsor and Essex County Field Naturalists' Club will continue with organizing this event. Derek noted that if anyone is interested in volunteering to contact Karen Cedar (kcedar@city.windsor.on.ca).

4. DRCC Logo Re-Design

Natalie explained that she presented the new DRCC logo options to the Steering and Implementation Committee on June 20, 2012 for their feedback (since a change in logo affects the entire DRCC structure). She noted that the two logo options were generally well-received and discussed at length but the Committee decided to stick with status quo for now. They preferred to revisit a change in the logo and possibly the name when the Detroit River will be ready for delisting on the Canadian side (approx. 4-5 years). Natalie noted that the Graphic Designer will be paid for his time to date and she will obtain all of the necessary files for a future use of the design.

ACTION: Natalie will finalize any payments due to Paul Santos (Designer), compile all files/copyright/intellectual property rights, and comments on the logos to be saved for future usage.

5. Public Advisory Council Projects

- Ojibway Shores/Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
Tom noted that the PAC has been pursuing the issue of Ojibway Shores for over 3 years and there hasn't been much progress. Tom expressed his continued desire for Ojibway Shores to be included in the Wildlife Refuge to truly make it international. He added that this issue was discussed at the June 20th Steering and Implementation Committee Meeting and that Matthew Child of ERCA (on behalf of Richard Wyma) reported that partners have agreed to create and sign a Priority Natural Area (PNA) initiative that is expected to complement progress being made through the U.S. International Wildlife Refuge. In the interests of a successful launch, DRCC Steering Committee members (including Tom) were asked not to publicize the PNA in advance of a fall media event. The PAC members asked Tom if Ojibway Shores was to be included in the PNA. He wasn't sure and offered to follow-up with Richard Wyma of ERCA.

ACTION: Tom will contact Richard Wyma of ERCA on behalf of the PAC to acknowledge that the PAC is pleased with the verbal response at the Steering and Implementation Committee meeting about the upcoming Priority Natural Areas Initiative but that the PAC would like more information regarding which properties are to be included. Tom will copy Percy Hatfield, Chair of the ERCA Board Of Directors.

- Windsor-Essex Parkway and Compensation Lands
This item was discussed during the review of decisions and actions at the beginning of the meeting.
- Little River Cart Problem
Natalie reported that a white paper on the shopping cart issue was developed (included in the meeting package). The group discussed the document and Natalie explained that to alleviate the problem "behaviour change initiative" is needed in this area. She noted that Leadership Windsor Essex often takes on these types of projects and it might be a good idea to ask for their support, if the PAC agreed. http://www.leadershipwindsor-essex.org/community_projects.php

ACTION: Natalie will follow-up on submitting the Little River Cart Problem as a Community Action Project with the Leadership Windsor-Essex group.

- Little River/ Lachance Drain
Deferred to the next meeting (when Ian Naisbitt is present). Derek noted that a report on the City of Windsor's Airport Masterplan including the Provincially-Significant Wetlands is available.
- Oakwood Sanctuary
Dave explained that Oakwood Public School is closing and the status of the Sanctuary is unknown and that the school board will be selling the school unless another school wants the building. He suggested that the sanctuary should be preserved since there are endangered species at this location. Natalie noted that she has heard others suggest that the sanctuary could be connected to Oakwood Bush. Pearl informed the group that plans drawn up by St. Clair College students a number of years ago and that an Environmental Assessment was conducted nearly 25 years ago. The group discussed the closure of City park and Rick noted that the PAC should be trying to save those parks. Tom asked if the PAC wants to pursue the Oakwood Sanctuary to be protected. Derek agreed if it meant it would be kept as a naturalized park (like Ojibway) and not a recreational area.

ACTION: Pearl offered to speak to the School Board's Head of Science about the Oakwood Sanctuary and any historical reports / assessments that were conducted. She will also ask the School Board and Ward Councillor Drew Dilkens if the wetland portion of the property can be severed and transferred to the City.

ACTION: Natalie will ask Caroline if the Friends of Turkey Creek are involved or if there is any interest in helping to protect the Oakwood Sanctuary.

- Great Lakes Act
Natalie reported that Ontario recently released the [Proposed Great Lakes Act \(submit comments here\)](#) and the [Draft Great Lakes Strategy \(submit comments here\)](#). Both documents are online for public review and comment until August 7, 2012. Derek noted that the CEA provided comments before it was posted publicly. Their comments are available on the CEA website. Marcia asked if the PAC wanted to submit comments, for example, about priority ecological areas. She noted that the Detroit River Area of Concern is not mentioned in the Strategy. The PAC agreed that comments should be submitted.

ACTION: Tom and Marcia offered to draft a response to the Proposed Great Lakes Act to ensure that the Detroit River Area of Concern continued to get support from the Province.

6. Committee/Work Group Updates

- Monitoring and Research Work Group: The Work Group met on May 9. The survey on 'Degradation of Aesthetics BUI' is currently in progress. Natalie will work with Chitra Gowda (ERCA) to analyze and interpret the results; aiming for a report in Fall 2012. The group is trying to connect with the Habitat Work Group to help guide monitoring for the BUI.
- Point/Nonpoint Source: The Work Group met on May 24. Natalie noted the Amherstburg recently completed an upgrade of its Waste Water Treatment Plant (the group hopes to get a tour in October). Natalie added that if the PAC is interested in a tour to please let her know. The group is finalizing a Septic Strategy and an Urban Non-Point Source Prevention Education Strategy for the AOC watershed. Tom asked about cleanup of soda ash settling ponds (General Chemical). Natalie did not know but offered to ask Teri Gilbert for an update.

ACTION: Natalie will contact Teri Gilbert, OMOE, for an update on the status of the General Chemical cleanup.

- Steering and Implementation Committee: The Committee met on June 20. The Committee discussed and agreed on a process for re-designating BUIs (with guidance provided by the Canada-Ontario Agreement Annex Implementation Committee). The process will be adopted by the DRCC with a few minor revisions. [A copy of the Re-designation Process is attached for your information]

7. Other Business

- Dave asked the PAC if there is anything the group should do to address the closing of parks in the City of Windsor. The group discussed several aspects include the principal of 'no net loss' of habitat, turning mowed areas into native plant gardens, and brownfield redevelopment. Derek noted that the City needs to formulate a strategy on environmental issues. A City that is within an Area of Concern should not be below average for natural areas. He added that the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee (WECEC) subgroup will likely talk about this issue and he suggested that the PAC connect with WECEC.
- Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority (LEEP): Derek reported that the IJC recently sent the CEA a letter to invite public participation in the development of recommendations for restoring the health of Lake Erie. There are several questions listed in the letter [attached]. *Respond to Raj Bejankiwar by August 31, 2012.*
- Amherstburg Public School Wetland Project: Natalie explained that the wetland creation project is in partnership with the school, the DRCC, Essex County Stewardship Network and Honeywell. The Outdoor Living Classroom is well on its way to completion but the school has no funding for equipment to help the EcoTeam maintain the trees, etc. Natalie helped Jacqui submit a proposal to the WECEC Pat on the Back Award for \$500 to help purchase equipment. Jacqui is presenting the project at the Ojibway Nature Centre on July 4 at 7 pm; everyone is welcome to attend.

8. Meeting Adjournment

Marcia and Tom adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm.

Next meeting: Monday, September 17, 2012 at 4:30 pm (new time) at the Windsor Airport Conference Room.

Appendix A
Meeting Attendance

Marcia Valiante	EPI Chair
Tom Henderson	PAC Chair
Gord Harding	PAC Vice Chair
Pearl Bradd	EPI/PAC
Elizabeth Munn	Friends of Canard River
Dave Munro	EPI/PAC
Kathleen Fraser	Facca Inc. (PAC)
Mike Walsh	EPI/PAC
Rick Coronado	Windsor Labour Council
Derek Coronado	Citizens Environment Alliance
Al Stephens	EPI/PAC
Natalie Green	RAP Coordinator
Kris Ives	RAP Assistant