

## **Meeting Record**

### **Detroit River Canadian Public Advisory Council**

### **DRCC Education and Public Involvement Work Group**

Monday, October 7, 2013 – 4:30 to 6:30 pm  
Airport Conference Room, Windsor, ON

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#### **1. Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda**

Tom, Chair of the PAC, called the meeting to order at 4:38 pm. The agenda was accepted as revised (shown in this meeting record).

#### **2. Approval of June 24, 2013 Meeting Record and Review of Action Items**

Attendees reviewed the June 2013 meeting record and accepted it with no changes. The action item was noted at complete.

#### **3. PAC Update since June 24, 2013**

##### **a. Chair and Vice-Chair Election**

Natalie explained that the PAC is to hold an annual election for the PAC's Chair/Vice-Chair position (DRCC Framework and Constitution, pages 9-10). She asked the group if they would like to elect a new member as Chair and/or Vice-Chair. The group discussed elections and a motion to keep *status quo* of Tom Henderson as Chair and Gord Harding as Vice Chair was made by Rick Coronado. Seconded by Ian Naisbitt. Carried.

##### **b. Ojibway Shores Update: Meeting with WPA on Sept. 26**

Tom requested that Mike Walsh report on the Sept. 26 meeting at the Port Authority. Mike thanked Tom for his efforts to coordinate the meeting and reported that several members of the PAC met with Richard Wyma (ERCA), David Cree (Port Authority), Charlie Pingle (Port Authority), Brian Masse (MP Windsor West), Jeff Watson (MP Essex), Mike Nelson (ERCA) on September 26 to discuss the future of Ojibway Shores. Specifically, the group wanted to follow-up on the Port Authority's promise to meet with the environmental community regarding their property and to obtain permission for experts to access the property to conduct proper environmental surveys of the site.

By the end of the Sept. 26 meeting, the Port Authority representatives agreed to ask their Board of Directors to cease any development plans for the remainder of 2013 and all of 2014. They also confirmed that a team of experts could have full access to the site but that prior notification to the Port Authority is required. MP Jeff Watson agreed to have preliminary discussions with Minister of Transport, Lisa Raitt and report back to the group in March 2014. In the meantime, the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club with assistance from ERCA will be assembling a plan to monitor the site along with a list of experts to conduct studies. The next meeting will be at the call of Tom Henderson and David Cree to get a report from MP Jeff Watson.

Tom noted that there was a recent [article in the Windsor Star](#) about the meeting.

The PAC discussed what they could do next to continue the momentum from the summer. Below are some ideas that were discussed:

- Tom could call Richard Wyma to find out if/when the ERCA experts will access the property and if the PAC can receive updates.
- Tom, Mike and Phil can explore option to engage the City of Windsor and other contacts to find an alternative for the site. For example, write a letter to the City to encourage them to “escape” the liabilities and save millions of dollars by not having to service Ojibway Shores if it gets developed.
- PAC working group to develop a list of ideas/options to protect Ojibway Shores. Commitment on the part of Richard to explore options with various organizations. What /how will we do and how will we convince the City to do it?

c. Airport Swamps Restoration Project

This item was deferred to the next meeting as Phil Roberts (the lead PAC member on this project) was not present.

d. Agreement between ERCA and USFWS for Canadian Registry of Lands: Western Lake Erie Priority Natural Areas (WLEPNA)/Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR)

Tom reported that there was a ceremony at Riverdance Park in LaSalle to sign an agreement between ERCA and the DRIWR and to officially register ERCA properties into the Canadian Registry of Lands for the WLEPNA. He noted that the City of Windsor Council is going to discuss/vote on adding municipal lands to the registry as well (Appendix 2). Derek added that if the City passes the motion to add some of its lands to the registry, the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee (WECEC) can make a similar recommendation to the Essex County Council.

e. Petcoke on U.S. side of Detroit River

Tom reported that the petcoke was removed in August 2013 because of an order by the City of Detroit’s Mayor, Dave Byng.

f. Sewage Report Card for Windsor

Derek explained that a [Great Lakes Sewage Report Card](#) by Ecojustice is now available online. He reported that the City of Windsor received a grade of C-. In December 2013, WECEC will host an open meeting with Paul Drca, Manager Environmental Quality at the City of Windsor, and Liat Podolsky, author of the report, to discuss the City’s poor grade. He noted that everyone is welcome to attend.

**4. DRCC EPI Work Group Project Updates**

Natalie reported that most projects are well underway and provided an update (below). Items that are marked as completed will be removed from the next update. She explained that funding for outreach and education was reduced this year so the budget had to be revised. She presented the revised budget; there were no questions or objections as presented.

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

ITEM	UPDATE
Tree plantings	<b>In progress.</b> 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	<b>In progress.</b> 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	<b>In progress.</b> The 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Detroit River Evening will take place in June 2014 and will be linked with the opening of the museum exhibit. Location and details are forthcoming.
Museum Exhibit	<b>In progress.</b> Kris is working with the museum curator, Hugh Barrett, to develop and prepare the exhibit. Text is being draft and Kris is working with a graphic artist to produce displays.
Children's song	<b>In progress.</b> The song is being developed by a professional songwriter. Lyrics are anticipated to be completed for our review by October 2013.
Signage @ Canard River Park	<b>In progress.</b> 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. Awaiting invoicing by the Town of LaSalle.
Signage @ St. Joseph's Church Native Garden	<b>In progress.</b> 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	<b>Completed.</b> 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	<b>Not started.</b> Pearl will lead this project with help from Marcia and Derek.
Re-designation Event	<b>In progress.</b> A bi-national fish fry celebration event is being planned for April 2014.
Peche Island Day	<b>Completed.</b> 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	<b>In progress.</b> A free screening <i>Freshwater Seas: The Great Lakes</i> is being planned by a small team of DRCC members (Marcia, Pearl, Elizabeth, Kris and Natalie) on Wednesday, November 6 at SilverCity Windsor.

### **Past Projects Update**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>UPDATE</b>
Cleanup/Volunteer Event Supplies	<b>Completed.</b> 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	<b>Almost completed.</b> 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	<b>In progress.</b> 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. The implementation team will meet soon after construction to discuss signage development.
Lesson Plans	<b>In progress.</b> 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	<b>Completed.</b> Installed by ERCA staff on October 10.

## 5. Steering Committee/Technical Work Group Update

Natalie reported that the Steering & Implementation Committee last met in June 2013. They have requested a Delisting Work Plan be completed and presented at the next meeting. The 2013-2018 Delisting Plan will be a compilation of all of the remaining actions required to re-designate each BUI and ultimately delist the Canadian side of the AOC. When it is completed, it will be presented to the PAC. Natalie added that the other Work Groups are meeting to work on the delisting plan and associated projects. There were no additional questions from the group.

## 6. Upcoming Events

- State of the Strait Conference – October 28, 2013
- Essex County Field Naturalists' Club Fundraising Dinner – November 2, 2013
- Film Screening Event – November 6, 2013
- Friend of Canard River Fundraising Dinner – November 16, 2013

## 7. Meeting adjournment

Marcia adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm. Next meeting will be in December 2013.

*Meeting Record prepared by Natalie Green.  
Reviewed by Chairs, Marcia Valiante and Tom Henderson.*

# APPENDIX 1

## Attendance

Marcia Valiante	EPI Chair
Tom Henderson	PAC Chair
Gord Harding	PAC Vice Chair
Caroline Biribauer	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Pearl Bradd	EPI/PAC
Elizabeth Munn	Friends of Canard River
Derek Coronado	Citizens Environment Alliance
Rick Coronado	Windsor Labour Council
Mike Walsh	EPI/PAC
Pete Thomas	EPI/PAC
Bruno Scaflin	PAC

Natalie Green	RAP Coordinator
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### **Regrets**

Dave Munro	EPI/PAC
Steve Marks	Essex County Field Naturalists' Club
Phil Roberts	Essex County Field Naturalists' Club (alternate)
Mary Bohling	US PAC Chair
Kris Ives	RAP Assistant