

Meeting Record

DRCC Education and Public Involvement & Public Advisory Council

Monday, September 17, 2012 – 4:30 to 7 pm

Conference Room, Windsor Airport, Windsor, ON

1. Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Agenda

Tom Henderson, PAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm and welcomed all in attendance and provided introductions. An item was added to the agenda: Special Guest Marcelina Smith of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). Agenda approved, as amended, by consensus.

(Meeting Attendance is attached in Appendix A).

2. Special Guest

Tom reminded the group of that an action of the last meeting was for Natalie to contact the MOE for an update on the General Chemical site cleanup. He introduced and welcomed Ms. Marcelina Smith, Senior Environmental Officer to the meeting. Marcelina explained that she is currently working on the General Chemical file and is on-site approximately once per week. She reported that demolition of the buildings is currently underway and due to be completed in 2013. She encouraged the group to visit <http://www.amherstburglandholdings.ca> for further information and updates and to contact her regarding anything in the Amherstburg area.

Discussion about the specifics of the project followed. Some key points were:

- Soda ash settling basin one is empty and basin two remains with water and always will. Straw has been added to the top of it for a nutrient base. Grasses are successfully growing on top. They are using the Fighting Island remediation works as a model and are working toward a naturalized area. Natural growth takes time, and they need to determine what will grow best in that environment.
- The extended 8' high berm will be removed and the normal berm will remain.
- The closure plan for the site hasn't been submitted to MOE yet, this is still the trial period now that basin one is empty. More information will be available once the closing plan is submitted.
- Monitoring is conducted by Amherstburg Land Holdings and the MOE. The main discharge concern is salt (calcium chloride) and metals.
- The Honeywell Facility onsite is still operational and discharges to the north drain. They changed the formula of their product to eliminate new arsenic discharge but there is arsenic in the ground from its usage 3 or more years ago.
- Mixing of effluent with the Honeywell site is still occurring to balance the pH of the effluent before it is discharged.

Tom thanked Marcelina for coming and providing the report.

ACTION: Natalie will obtain a copy of Honeywell's Environmental Compliance Approval for the PAC.

3. Approval of June 27, 2012 Meeting Record (EPI/PAC) and review of Action Items

Meeting Record and Decisions and Actions Document – Reviewed and approved as presented. Phil reported that they have a full restoration plan for the Oakwood site, including the school.

ACTION: Phil will provide the Oakwood Restoration Plan to Natalie for distribution to the group.

4. EPI / Outreach Project Updates (Marcia chairs this portion of the meeting)

- DRCC Handout / Brochure
Natalie noted that she is waiting to meet with Vit of the Citizens Environment Alliance (who was contracted to do the design work). She reported that a final draft should be available at the next meeting.
- Signs for native plant gardens
Natalie reported that 26 small plant ID signs were ordered, purchased and installed for the Friends of Turkey Creek Native Plant Demonstration Garden funded by the DRCC. She explained that a portion of the funding was also to support signage at GLIER'S Native Plant Garden. The Garden was weeded with the help of very energetic, young students. The next phase will be to coordinate the planting event in October. All members will be notified and encouraged to attend.
- Protect the River from Household Chemicals Brochure
Kris reported that progress was being made on the 'Chemical Brochure' and passed around a first draft for review/feedback. The group was asked to consider the title, images and content and provide feedback to Kris and/or Natalie by Friday, September 21. Kris noted that receiving no response will equate to implied acceptance. Phil added that the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee recently completed a public service announcement on the effects of phosphorus on Lake Erie algal blooms.
ACTION: Kris and Natalie will collect comments from the Work Group and provide necessary revisions to the graphic designer then proceed with printing.
- Lesson Plan Development
Natalie reported that the lesson plans are pending. Pearl added that the Science Centre may be utilizing the lesson plans as a testing group. She noted that Mike Walsh volunteered to help develop a lesson plan to compliment our sewer video (when it is completed).
- Sewer / Waste Water Education Video
Natalie reported that Suede Media Productions was hired to produce a 20 minute educational video and a short public service announcement. The project was supported by the DRCC and the City of Windsor. She reported that filming and scripts are completed; the production company is editing. Natalie noted that the deadline for the company was November. She will inform the group when it is ready to be screened.
ACTION: Natalie will inform the Work Group and PAC when the Sewerage Education Video is completed.
- Liquid Assets Film Screening
Natalie reported that a sub-group of the Work Group watched the film 'Liquid Assets' and decided it should be shown for our next film screening event. The Sub-Group agreed that it was very American-centric and would need to be supplemented with an informational handout and an expert discussion panel; planning is now in progress. The film will be shown on **Wednesday November 7th at 7:00pm at Silver City**. Natalie thanked Marcia and Pearl for volunteering for this event as well as the City of Windsor and Essex Source Water Protection Authority for additional financial support.
- Peche Island Day 2012
Derek reported that the Peche Island Day will be taking place this Saturday, September 22nd. Natalie explained that volunteers are still required and to contact Karen Cedar if you wish to participate. She added that the CBC and AM800 have contacted her for interviews regarding the event. All are welcome to attend.

5. 2012-2013 Budget

Natalie reminded the group that funding is available for Outreach and Education projects for the 2012-2013 fiscal year (ending March 31, 2013). She explained that she met with Marcia to brainstorm potential projects and provided the group with a draft budget for discussion. Each proposed project was discussed and final decisions (approved by consensus) are provided in *Appendix B*.

6. Public Advisory Council Report

- Ojibway Shores/Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Tom reported that he and Dave discovered mounds of dirt/earth/asphalt deposited on a property adjacent to Ojibway Shores. They were concerned about the effect of the dumping on the Detroit River so they took some photos and contacted the Windsor Star. An article about the issue was published in the Windsor Star on September 10. Dave explained that the article quoted Cindy Prince as saying that an earthen berm was placed between the dumped materials and the river to protect the water but he could not see it. Dave expressed his concern for the Healy and Broadway drain as they are reportedly used for fish spawning and were currently blocked. He added that the Broadway drain was listed as part of the compensation lands and should be protect. He noted that he contacted Transport Canada but has received no response to date.

Phil asked Dave and Tom what they though should be the action to address the issue. He explained that Provincial permitting requires Broadway Drain (a municipal drain) improvements after the new bridge plaza is built. Phil noted that if the PAC is worried about the impacts the dumped materials may have on the Detroit River then it is our job to take action. He added that if the berm if inadequate they will have to make it better to protect the River. Phil suggested that the PAC form a sub-committee to assist Tom and Dave and to develop a plan of action (e.g., a campaign, letters, request to see permit, ensuring all checks and balances are in place, obtaining aerial photographs, petitioning the DFO about phenols in the runoff, etc.). The group discussed the suggestion and a few people volunteered to take part: Phil, Dave, Tom, Rick, and Marcia.

ACTION: The PAC Sub-Committee meet to develop a plan of action for protecting the Detroit River from potential pollution resulting in the dumped materials next to Ojibway Shores.

- Airport Woodlots

Tom reported that he and Ian were listed as delegates to City Council to appear tonight; the issue has been deferred to a future meeting because the St. Louis family has asked for a deferral which was granted. Phil agreed that a delegation at City Council to support the administration's report is an important first step. There are a number of things on this property that the PAC needs to make City Council aware of namely that the property in question is integral to the airport's development and is also a perfect fit for the City's Environmental Master Plan. Phil suggested that the PAC meet prior to the delegation to develop key speaking points from this report to push the correct messages to Council. For example, 120 m buffer around a wetland is not legislated but it is becoming the standard in the biggest of projects and the smallest of projects.

ACTION: Tom and Ian will alert the group when the Airport Woodlots will be listed on City Council so that PAC members can attend and speak as delegates.

ACTION: Those PAC members attending as delegates should have a meeting (via conference call) to coordinate key messages to be presented to Council. Natalie can help arrange the meeting.

- Windsor-Essex Parkway and Compensation Lands

Dave and Tom requested a meeting at the Initiative Group's office. They are waiting to arrange a mutually convenient date.

- Little River Cart Problem

Natalie reported that submitted an application for Leadership Windsor Essex Community Action Proposals. She was asked to attend a meeting to present the project to the groups to request that they take it on as a challenge. She encouraged any PAC members to attend with her on September 20.

- Western Lake Erie Priority Natural Area

Natalie explained that a binational announcement is taking place on Thursday September 27th on Fighting Island. She encouraged everyone to attend; details on the event were sent via email.

7. Committee/Work Group Updates

Natalie reported on behalf of all other work groups and committees. Specifically, she noted that:

- The Steering and Implementation Committee is due to meet on Wednesday, November 7th (1 pm to 4 pm). All are invited to attend.
- The Habitat and Monitoring & Research Work Groups are planning to meet together to discuss short- and long-term targets (post-delisting) for addressing the Loss of Fish and Wildlife BUI.
- The Point/Nonpoint Source recently developed a Septic Strategy for the Detroit River AOC Watershed. The document will be used the Work Group's Member Organizations to address possible nonpoint source contamination in the watershed. Natalie directed the group to the document and invited members to review. She noted that the Work Group is meeting in October at the new Amherstburg Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- RAP Governance: Natalie reported that her most recent work report is available upon request.

8. Other Business

None reported.

9. Meeting Adjournment

Marcia and Tom adjourned the meeting at 7:35 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
Marcelina Smith	MOE
Gord Harding	PAC Vice Chair
Pearl Bradd	EPI/PAC
Elizabeth Munn	Friends of Canard River
Dave Munro	EPI/PAC
Rick Coronado	Windsor Labour Council
Derek Coronado	Citizens Environment Alliance
Elizabeth Munn	EPI/PAC
Natalie Green	RAP Coordinator
Kris Ives	RAP Assistant

Appendix B
Outreach/Education Budget
September 2012 – March 2013

Approved by the DRCC Education & Public Involvement Work Group on Sept. 17/12:

ANTICIPATED REVENUE	AMOUNT
Canada-Ontario Agreement	\$25,000
Great Lakes Sustainability Fund	\$20,000

ITEM	Est. AMOUNT
Tree plantings (DR - 3K; LR- 4K; TC - 4K; CR - 4K)	\$15,000
Website, E-newsletter, DRDIS	\$1,750
Detroit River Evening and Annual Report	\$3,500
Cleanup/Volunteer Event Supplies	\$1,000
Sign at Lauzon Parkway (replacement)	\$500
Detroit River Boat Tour	\$5,000
Temporary Tattoo Re-printing	\$500
DRCC Water Bottle Re-printing	\$9,000
Sewerage Factsheet	\$1,000
Bookmark	\$2,000
Signage at Riverdance Park and/or RTB Site	\$5,000
Miscellaneous printing costs	\$750
TOTAL	\$45,000

Details:

1) Tree Plantings

Funding will be used to purchase tree and plant material for community tree plantings in the Detroit River watershed. Each watershed is allocation a portion of the funding. The Little River, Turkey Creek and Canard River sub-watersheds each receive \$4,000 and the Detroit River sub-watershed receives \$3,000 for planting projects. These projects are implemented by ERCA and Lil'REG, as opportunities arise.

2) E-newsletter, website hosting and DRDIS

To support the annual cost of our monthly E-newsletter, the maintenance of the DRCC's website as well as the Detroit River Delisting and Information System (DRDIS). The newsletter includes information about completed and/or ongoing Detroit River projects and events, facts about the AOC, and other related information for the public. Currently, there are over 850 subscribers to the DRCC newsletter. The website and DRDIS is necessary for hosting important DRCC/RAP/AOC information for the public.

3) Detroit River Evening and Annual Report

Produce (design and print) the 2012-2013 annual report that summarizes all of the RAP activities between March 2012 and April 2013. The funding will also support costs to host the DRCC's Annual Detroit River Evening to celebrate all of our achievements with the public. The Evening features an interesting Guest Speaker to attract public attendance.

4) Cleanup / Volunteer Event Supplies

To support the cost of hosting community cleanup and other volunteer events. Costs include supplies such as gloves, garbage bags and tools, rental of restroom facilities, and providing refreshments for volunteers.

- 5) Sign at Lauzon Parkway (replacement)
The DRCC Education and Public Involvement Work Group approved spending \$500 (funding from 2011-2012) to replace a severely damaged project sign in the Little River watershed. However, the sign is double-sided and the total cost to replace the sign is approximately \$1000. This additional \$500 will be used to cover the remaining balance of replacing the damaged project sign.
- 6) Detroit River Boat Tour
Sponsorship of the CEA-hosted Detroit River boat tour. The tour highlights some of the projects that have occurred on the Detroit River and some of the ongoing issues in the Area of Concern. The CEA will acknowledge support from the DRCC in all of its publications (website, print poster) as well as to its members and the media.
- 7) Temporary Tattoo Re-printing
In 2010, the DRCC created and printed 2,000 temporary tattoos for children that promote drinking tap water. These items were a huge hit with children and were all given away. We will use the funding to purchase have the tattoos re-printed for giveaways at public events.
- 8) DRCC Water Bottle Re-printing
In 2010, the DRCC purchased 2,000 stainless steel, reusable water bottles with their logo and website printed on them. All of the bottles were distributed at DRCC events and to its volunteers and partners. The funding will be used to purchase another 2,000 bottles as a promotional item at events.
- 9) Sewerage Factsheet
A factsheet about water infrastructure will be developed to compliment the DRCC's 2012 Film Screening of *Liquid Assets* in November. The factsheet will include the following information about local statistics (amount and type of sewers in City of Windsor, history of sewage problems, retention treatment basin), problems with infrastructure in Canada, list of recent project and/or things that are being done to improve infrastructure (RTB, treatment plant upgrades, sewer replacement, CSO monitoring samplers), Canadian legislation around infrastructure, and what people can do at home to reduce sewer problems.
- 10) Bookmarks
The series of bookmarks will highlight select Detroit River issues / projects / interesting facts. They will be a promotional item to handout at DRCC events. Approximately 3-5 different designs containing beautiful visual design, quick, interesting facts and a modern link (QR Code) to more information on our website will be created (initially).
- 11) Signage at Riverdance Park and/or RTB site
To support the cost of design and production of public-friendly, interpretive signage to educate about recent projects such as the fish spawning reefs and shoreline restoration in the Detroit River (Riverdance Park, LaSalle) and/or the Retention Treatment Basin site in Windsor. The Town of LaSalle has agreed to assist in the costs to develop signage at its park site.
- 12) Miscellaneous Printing Costs
To support the cost of printing our ongoing print materials. If not required during this fiscal period, the amount will be reallocated to another Detroit River Outreach project pending approval by the Education and Public Involvement Work Group.