

Meeting Record
DRCC Public Advisory Council
DRCC Education and Public Involvement Work Group
Wednesday, September 24, 2014 – 4:30 to 6:30 pm
Airport Conference Room, Windsor, ON

1. Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda (5 min)

Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting (see Appendix 1 for attendance) and extended the hope to finished by 6:30pm so people can attend the IJC Public Forum on the Great Lakes at 7pm at the University.

2. Approval of April 30, 2014 Meeting Record and Review of Action Items (5 min):

- Tom to draft an email and follow up with Richard Wyma regarding the commitment of some of Dan Lebedyk's time to surveying Ojibway Shores. Tom said that, because of all the work taking place by the field naturalists and the BioBlitz, he saw no need to request a meeting with Richard Wyma.
- Tom will continue research to find out what an agreement might look like for Ojibway Shores regarding air/land rights compensation from the new bridge
- Tom to follow up with Jeff Watson regarding Ojibway Shores. Tom will discuss these two action items later in the meeting.
- Caroline will provide the planting statistics from 2013/14 via email to Claire when they are available. (done)

Meeting record approved by consensus.

Tom reported that Kris Ives has accepted the position of Curator/Education Coordinator and that this will be her last EPI/PAC meeting. He thanked her for her years of excellent service with the DRCC.

PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

3. PAC Update since April 30, 2014 (45 min)

- a) Ojibway Shores – On July 28th there was a teleconference between MP Jeff Watson, Phil Roberts, Tom Preney, and Tom Henderson to discuss Ojibway Shores and to tell him about the BioBlitz and other studies that have been conducted on the property. MP Watson is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and told Tom he is trying to arrange a tour of the property for Minister Lisa Raitt. He said that the WPA had been approached by the MoT to discuss compensation for Ojibway Shores. Phil added that they just appointed the CEO for the federally appointed Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and Jeff Watson offered to broker a meeting with this CEO, noting that the CEO likely has not even heard of Ojibway Shores. Derek emphasized the importance of getting any promises in writing in case the government changes with next year's elections.

ACTION: Tom will remind MP Watson of his offer to approach the new Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority CEO to request a meeting.

- b) Kennette Property – Tom reported that Dave Munro took photos of the Kennette property from a distance and there were big piles of rubble from Grace Hospital on the berm, which was constructed to protect runoff from the Broadway Drain. The berm might be underneath of all of the cement blocks, but Dave has photos from 2012 and 2014 and he is concerned because the Broadway drain is being impacted. (Dave passed around the photos.) He is pursuing this with MOE and DFO through email. Phil informed the group that the other issue with the Kennette property is that they likely have long term plans to infill the river out to the shipping shelf to construct an aggregate dock. DFO may not have authority to stop it. Phil added that we have seen Dillon Consulting’s report for the Kennette family, so we know what they are posturing toward and infilling of the river is very troubling.

There was discussion regarding the extent of the Ojibway Shores property.

- c) Municipal Elections: Questions for candidates – Tom reported that he has a friend who is willing to ask questions for us at upcoming candidates meetings and requested that the group brainstorm some possible questions. Derek suggested writing the questions down and submitting them to mayoral candidates and that way they get published. Phil suggested a generic question, for example “what strategies will you use to deal with climate change issues?” Or “if you had to improve water quality in the DR, what would you do?” Derek suggested asking directly “what do they plan to do to protect Ojibway Shores and what do they see as the City’s responsibility in protecting it?” or “The DRCC has put a high priority on Ojibway Shores, what do you propose for the long term benefit / protection for this ecological connection?”.

ACTION: If members can think of any other questions for mayoral candidates, please submit them to Tom.

DRCC EDUCATION & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORK GROUP

4. Project Updates (30 min) (Marcia is still on sabbatical; Tom chaired this portion of the meeting)

- Derek gave the group an update on the CEA boat tour. 100 people attended and they went both up and down stream. All photos are posted on the CEA website and there was good media coverage. Hillary Payne was on the tour as and said that the boat tour helped inform him of the Ojibway Shores issues. Should he be re-elected, he told Derek that he is willing to bring it back to council and ask about some of the zoning discrepancies.
- Detroit River Evening: Claire reported that 50 people attended the evening and the guest speaker was Gord Miller who spoke on climate change.
- DRCC Exhibit: Kris reported that the launch and exhibit has been successful so far, with good initial media coverage. She reminded the group that the exhibit is on until the end of the year.
- Riverdance Signage: Claire reported that this set of four signs has been on the agenda for a couple of years. The bald eagle sign, which was one of several printed years ago, is ready to be installed. One sign is about Lake Sturgeon (currently in draft), a third one on shoreline softening (also in draft) and a fourth sign will potentially be on partnerships. Please contact Claire if you would like to provide feedback.
- Lesson Plan Development (Claire/Mike/Pearl) – Pearl reported that we are trying to augment the lesson plans that were developed by the student from the University of Windsor (developed for senior grades), and we are trying to develop something for the junior grades. We want it to have curriculum links for our Wastewater video and we want it to be hands-on and engaging.

Claire has contacted the University of Windsor for keen Bachelor of Education students who might be interested in helping develop some lesson plans.

- Peche Island Day 2014 (Derek/Claire) – There's been lots of interest already. Volunteers are welcome so please sign up with Claire if you are available to help. Last year we had record attendance of 545 people.
- Community plantings & cleanups update (Caroline/Claire) – Caroline reported that for the 13/14 year all funds were spent; 2500 trees and 400 wildflowers were planted, with the majority of that work in the Little River Watershed (on Earth Day). This year there were 4 cleanups (2 in the CR, 1 - DR proper and 1- TC); for the fall we have 6 plantings in the watershed that are funded by the DRCC (600 trees) and a couple of others that are not.
- Ian reported that the Ford Nemaok is planting trees this year, after many years of trying to engage them. There are some bureaucratic challenges, but this planting will be going ahead.
- Caroline reported that a native plant garden tour was conducted in August and the hand-out (distributed) was developed and the guide was partly funded through the DRCC. The event will be held again next year.
- Airport Project – Ian said that the Phase 3 planting is held up because the mega-hospital may be put on the site. The project is on-hold until the City makes a decision on where the regional hospital will go (short listing five locations this month). Fairly detailed design plans exist and it will be an exciting project when it comes to fruition.
- Film Screening 2014 – Claire and Kris will preview the Passenger Pigeon film and follow-up with the committee.

5. Budget Status for 2014-2015 (20 min)

- Brainstorming & discussion of projects for 15/16 – Claire reported that the budget updates for 14/15 are on the back of the agenda. It is time to think of new projects and what we want to pursue for the next budget year. Tom mentioned that 2016 is the 25th anniversary of the Little River Enhancement Group and hopes that it might be feasible to plant 25 trees (for 25 years) on the Gnatchio Trail. Ian has a meeting with Bill Roesel in October to discuss the potential planting site.
- Derek is interested in obtaining funding for a boat tour again; it's the CEA's 30th anniversary and the theme of the tour will be continuity and perseverance.
- Ian would like to get three interpretive signs in the watershed including one at the Little River Canadian Tire site. Ian requested that we designate an entire meeting to brainstorm and develop projects. Claire agreed that this was a good idea and that today's brainstorming session was just a primer for a future meeting.
- Phil felt we got excellent value for our money with the CTV advertising. Discussion ensued regarding working with another station like CBC or Global.
- Phil suggested we approach WPA to discuss possible restoration projects on Ojibway Shores and/or the Broadway Drain.

6. Steering Committee & Work Group Updates (10 min) (T. Henderson/C. Sanders)

- Claire reported that she has met with all the work groups once since she started as RAP Coordinator and is working to get second meetings together. She gave an overview of the work being done by the Monitoring & Research Work Group and the Habitat Work Group.
- Derek said that the CEA has been doing some work with USGS and has determined that coal tar sealant has been determined as a 50 – 75% PAH contaminant source. This information will be posted on their website soon.

- Discussion ensued regarding the priority habitat sites that the HWG has been working on. Ian requested that someone from the HWG come and review their prioritized sites with the PAC and Claire said she could arrange that. Some discussion took place regarding whether any changes that have taken place in land ownership since the priority list was compiled in 2007 and Claire emphasized the need to engage industry and private landowners.

7. Upcoming Events

- Peche Island Day: Saturday, October 4, 2014 (10am-3pm)

8. Meeting adjournment & Next Meeting

Tom mentioned that Nancy Panchesan of the Friends of Ojibway is taking her fight over the big box development to the OMB and needs money to support the fight. If anyone is interested in contributing, her email address can be acquired from Tom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

Next meeting: At the call of the Chairs.

Meeting record taken by K. Ives and C. Sanders.

APPENDIX 1

Attendance

Claire Sanders	RAP Coordinator
Kris Ives	RAP Assistant
Tom Henderson	PAC Chair
Sandra Kok	Environment Canada
Caroline Biribauer	
Pearl Bradd	
Ian Naisbitt	
Derek Coronado	
Rick Coronado	
Dave Munro	
Phil Roberts	

APPENDIX 2 – Expenditures Updates**April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015**

ITEM	Budget	Expense	Balance	Status
Tree plantings (fall 2014 - spring 2015)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	In Progress
E-newsletter & Website hosting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	In Progress
Detroit River Evening / Annual Report 2015	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	
DRDIS (CSCI Fee for server & membership)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	Complete
Detroit River Boat Tour Sponsorship	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	Complete
USB Sticks (with DRCC logo)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	TBD
Volunteer Event Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	In Progress
Special Events (PID and/or Film Screening)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	In Progress
Airtime on CTV	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	Complete
Support for Native Plant Guide (includes native plant ID, information, pesticide/fertilizer free info)	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -	Complete
New DRCC Shelter (10x10) for events	\$ 200.00	\$ 132.28	\$ 67.72	Complete
Essex Water Festival Sponsorship	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	Complete
Detroit Water Festival Sponsorship	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	Complete
	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 14,932.28	\$ 25,067.72	