

MEETING RECORD

DRCC Public Advisory Council & EPI Work Group

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 – 4:30-6:30pm

Riverdance Park Community Room, 1 Laurier Drive, LaSalle (Laurier Dr. at Front Road)

1. Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Agenda

Tom called the meeting to order at 4:35 and welcomed Melanie Foose from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Roundtable introductions followed (*see Meeting Attendance – Appendix 1*). The agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Approval of December, 2015 Meeting Record and Review of Action Items

The meeting record from December 16, 2015 was approved by consensus.

3. US PAC Update – Melanie Foose, MDEQ

Melanie provided an update on ongoing projects on the US side including sediment mapping projects and the on-going habitat work. (NOTE: the presentation is not available for distribution because some of the sediment maps are still draft.)

Melanie noted that there are definite plans to dredge as a result of the PAC sediment project for cleanup to remove contaminants and most of the work being done by EPA. The PAC Sediment Committee met and unanimously agreed Gibraltar Canal and contaminants/ McClouth Steel Shoreline/ Elizabeth Park Canal /River Rouge Ecourse Shoreline/River Bend. According to the data on these studies sites will be identified for decontamination. Next steps include looking for non-federal partners to fulfill the great lakes legacy act (this year will be Ford) to help sponsor cleanup. Discussion took place regarding how dredging projects like this are done and the safety of the projects.

Melanie gave an overview of the current habitat projects underway including Blue Heron Lagoon, other Belle Isle work, Milliken State Park, Stony Island shoal reconstruction, and the Upper Riverfront Parks project. Next steps include benthos BUI's completing sediment characterization and clean up locations and more focus on Habitat BUI's CSO's- still about 50 CSO's on the Detroit river not including the Rouge

PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

4. PAC Update since December 16, 2016 (75 minutes) - Tom Henderson, Chair

a) Kennette Property

Tom reported that a number of people, including the City of Windsor, has requested to see a copy of the Kennette's permit, which notes the required compensation that is required of him, but thus far it hasn't been provided. He has approached city administration but there has been no further progress. Claire noted that she was contacted by the CBC today and was asked to comment on the project. She noted that she could speak to the general habitat issues and goals for restoration in the Detroit River. Tom said he responded on behalf of the PAC.

b) Ojibway Shores, correspondence with Transport Canada, Detroit River Bridge Authority Annual Meeting

Tom noted that at the last PAC meeting, he was asked to send a letter to the Interim Chair of the Detroit River Bridge Authority. He attended the Public Meeting. In light of the fact that there has been much environmental distraction as a result of the construction of the bridge wouldn't it make sense for a portion of the land to be turned over to a public agency. Instead of compensating for the wetland destructed, wetlands were turned over in previous situations

- Conversation with local MP inferred progress is being made behind the scenes
- Construction is well underway with culverts and storm water pipes
- Environmental focus group was attended by Tom and conversed with Walpole official and it was discussed they still have land claims to the Ojibway shores
- Since December, the Minister of (something) came down and too
- Ojibway area is a vital piece of ecology
- Derek was at council last week on another issue, but the City has entered an agreement with the bridge authority to offload valuable animals that will be offloaded from the disturbance
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- c) Bioblitz 2015, ERCA and Ojibway Shores
- Gathered information from the 2014-2015 bio blitz
- Dan and Jerry were supposed to work on the report, but Dan is busy so Clare has taken on melding reports together getting as much data as possible to transfer over the report
- Hopeful for a draft report within the next couple weeks
- Jerry is doing the natural classification portion for free
- Ralph is still waiting for the data on the bio blitz
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- d) Dainty Foods & Black Oak Heritage Park
- Located on the O parkway, cut at least 50-60 feet within the Black Oak Heritage Park
- Taken Responsibility for it and planned prairie restoration of affected area and covering the costs
- Ian says that the drainage ditch that was put in there has been blocked in order to restore it back to a provincial wetland
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- e) Samsung Project and Tree Planting
- Caroline has publicly notified that there will be no more planting on the airport property due to safety concerns- so the plan to complete the connection of the woodlots will not take place
- Perhaps an opportunity to address this later after a period time and the Samsung project is finished
- Derek got a letter from Samsung seeking an amendment of a permit and shrinking an overall footprint of the project which will provide more space for planting
- Within the Little River enhancement area, feels that public safety is being used against us
- The fence going in goes within 3 feet into the ground- potential for a city park but are significantly protected as a wetland
- 150 meter buffer zone available
- Once the airport fence has been established by the Samsung build then the parks can be able to take control of that area and tree planting can be continued
- The biggest safety concern is not really a threat
- Once the airport gets designated out with the fence, the areas around that won't fall under airport jurisdiction so little river can't work directly with the Samsung project people
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DRCC EDUCATION & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORK GROUP

5. EPI Update since March 10, 2016 (15 mins) – Ian Naisbitt, Co-Chair

- f) Twin Oaks Cleanup
- 2. Code Green from Caesars did a really great job
- a) Earth Day Planting
- 3. 2000 trees planted- holes filled and trees replaced
- 4. Success rate is pretty good
- 5. Next year Danielle hopes to go through Essex , but the hopes is Twin Oaks
- a) Lil' Reg Anniversary Planting

6. This Saturday planting

U-Haul Property- old wix bumper plant – Asphalt parking lot

- Drains into the little river have been concreted shut
- With all of the asphalt hopefully there will be less toxic runoff
- Pearl suggested we should test the water again

Mike went to the Micro plastics presentation

- Panel of folks there to give the 411 on micro plastics
- Few studies within the great lakes focused on micro plastics
- Plastic grading according to size
- Biggest problem within the microscopic area up to 7 pieces per square meter
- A lot of money going into the micro plastics issues
- Banning of microbeads in the States – Canada is slowly moving in the same direction
- Most of the projects the plastics industry has been involved with was with solid waste recovery
- Extended producer responsibility all the way to recovery of the product
- May 7 micro plastics shoreline cleanup
- No great increase in science of micro plastics
- Human health impact didn't get addressed within the presentation

6. Meeting Adjournment & Next Meeting

Meeting record prepared by S. Baldo and C. Sanders.

APPENDIX 1

Attendance

Tom Henderson	PAC Chair
Ian Naisbitt	EPI Co-Chair
Caroline Biribauer	EPI Co-Chair

Pearl Bradd
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Adela Emery
Ken Emery
Steve Marks
Dave Munro
Andy Paul
Andy Paling
Amanda Polewski
Tom Preney
Pete Thomas
Mike Walsh

Resources:

Phil Roberts	City of Windsor
Claire Sanders	RAP Coordinator
Sarah Baldo	RAP Assistant